



**NORMAN LAMONT**

The challenge of a first Budget

Beware the growth factor, page 18



**KATE MUIR**

Meeting America's toughest woman boss

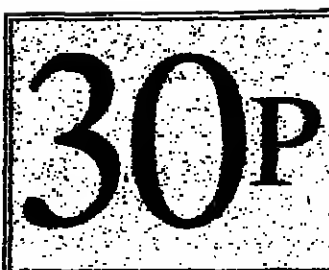
The Queen of Impatience, page 16



**ROB ANDREW**

A victory we will remember for ever

England's triumph, pages 23-25



# THE TIMES



No. 64,813

MONDAY NOVEMBER 29 1993

There has been no negotiating with Sinn Fein... no one has been authorised to talk or negotiate on behalf of the British government with Sinn Fein

## IRA contacts put Mayhew on the rack

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND NICHOLAS WATT

SIR Patrick Mayhew will today fight for his political life when he goes to the Commons to defend himself and John Major in the face of accusations that they have misled MPs over secret contacts with the IRA.

Amid furious demands for his resignation yesterday by Unionist MPs, Labour claims that the government's integrity was at stake and deep embarrassment in Conservative circles. The Northern Ireland secretary admitted that a "chain of communication" had existed between the government and the IRA for years.

Sir Patrick denied, however, that the contacts amounted to negotiations or talks with the IRA or Sinn Fein, his political wing, and promised a Commons statement on the affair and publication of all messages between the two sides. He insisted that he and the prime minister had been tell-

**The row over secret government contacts with the IRA threatens to undermine John Major's credibility**

ing the truth when they repeatedly denied that they were negotiating with the IRA. Downing Street officials said it would have been "wholly irresponsible" for the government not to have responded to IRA peace overtures.

After a fortnight of claims by Unionist and nationalist leaders that the government has been secretly talking to the IRA and Sinn Fein, the storm broke with the leak of a secret message written by Sir Patrick and sent in March to Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Fein leader. The government said yesterday that the message was a response to an approach from the IRA saying that "the conflict was over" and asking for advice on how to bring it to a close. The IRA was told that the first step had to be a genuine end to the violence.

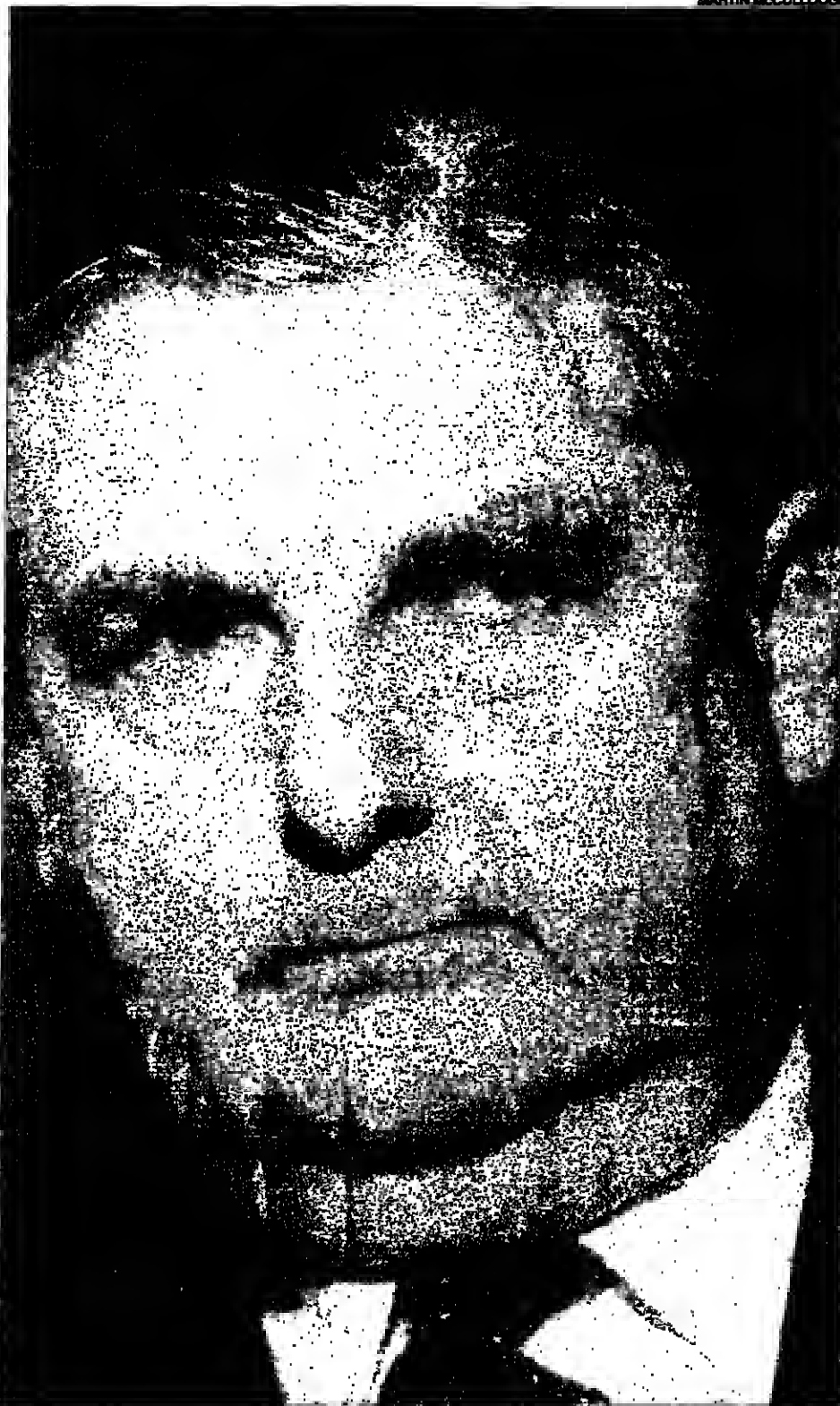
As the controversy raged yesterday, the argument turned on the difference between "contacts" with the IRA and "talks or negotiations". Ministers maintained that their repeated public denials of talks or negotiations did not cover the kind of contacts through intermediaries disclosed yesterday. Their critics accused them of "bare-faced lies".

One consolation for Sir Patrick and Mr Major yesterday was that most Tory MPs seemed inclined to accept that they had been right to respond to IRA feelers holding out the prospect of a permanent end to the Northern Ireland conflict. They were supported yesterday by Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, Michael Mates, the former Northern Ireland security minister, and David Howell, chairman of the all-party foreign affairs committee.

However, there was surprise and alarm in Conservative ranks. The Times was told that the cabinet had no knowledge of the secret contacts and senior ministers expressed unease about a Unionist backlash, fearing it could shatter the unofficial pact between the government and the Ulster Unionists, which has helped sustain the Tories in power.

Kevin McNamara, the shadow Northern Ireland secretary, signalled a fierce grilling for Sir Patrick in the Commons today. While Labour will not condemn contacts with the IRA out of hand, recognising the prize at stake, it believes the affair raises serious questions about the government's honesty.

Mr McNamara said: "This goes to the integrity of government about what the Northern



Sir Patrick Mayhew under pressure at his press conference in Belfast yesterday

Ireland Office has been prepared to say about its contacts with the Provisional Sinn Fein. The rights or wrongs of negotiations with the Provisional Sinn Fein are not of the essence of this particular case.

"What is important is that the British government denied that they had any contact and denied they were in contact with the Provisional Sinn Fein at the time of the Warrington

disaster [March 20]. The strongest condemnation came from the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists. He said Sir Patrick and Mr Major had been involved in "bare-faced lying" and should get out.

Peter Robinson, his deputy, said Sir Patrick had specifically denied "contact" with Sinn Fein or the IRA by government intermediaries in a BBC

television interview on November 16. He added: "John Major was telling us in the Commons that his stomach would turn at the prospect of ever having to deal with Gerry Adams or the IRA. While he was saying this, he had given approval for contacts with that very organisation."

Resignation call, page 2  
Leading article, page 19

## Carey warns against Bulger case 'panic'

By LIN JENKINS

THE Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday issued a warning against the danger of lapsing into "moral panic" over the murder of James Bulger, aged two.

Dr George Carey's remarks, made in Singapore at the end of his Far East tour, were his first response to criticism from David Maclean, Home Office minister, that the church was "strangely silent" on the importance of teaching children the difference between right and wrong.

He said that Mr Maclean was wrong. The church had

been speaking out. But "moral panic" in response to rare crime would be counter-productive. "The danger about that is that we can so easily forget and move on to the next

The ordeal of a tramp beaten to death by three boys aged under 11 has provoked the kind of soul-searching in France that the Bulger case has in Britain. Page 12

big problem that confronts us," he said. "We need to go back to fundamentals. This is actually a judgment on all of us in the country, even though

a crime of this nature is very rare indeed. Be that as it may, it comes back to us. Are we providing moral guidance for young people today?"

The Archbishop said parents, teachers and the church had to consider whether they were giving young people proper moral guidelines. "Each one of us as a parent must address the question of what moral guidelines we are giving to our youngsters today through our homes, through the church and through schools."

The church was in the business of promoting a faith, not just a morality, he said. He criticised what he described as

today's "DIY" morality where people decided for themselves what was right or wrong. "We are in danger of being a privatised, fragmented group of people. Somehow we need to recover a sense of belonging to one society. Let us move away from the DIY morality that has been going on, with everyone doing what is right or wrong in their own eyes."

In a letter to The Times today Dr Carey joins other religious leaders in urging caution on those who want total or substantial deregulation of the Sunday trading laws.

Letters, page 19

## Lockerbie film plan

TINY Rowland, joint chief executive of Lorho, has confirmed that the company has set up a subsidiary to fund a film investigation of the Lockerbie bombing. He promised that if the film showed Libya to be involved he would do no more business with it.

Allan Francovich, renowned for his investigation of the CIA, has been hired by Hemar Enterprises, the subsidiary, to direct and produce. Mr Rowland said he would be "absolutely independent... He told me, 'Any interference by you and I am out.'"

Details, page 44

## Sir Terence cooks up something huge for Soho

By ROBIN YOUNG

EUROPE'S biggest restaurant is to be built in the heart of London's Soho district. Gourmets will be unsurprised to learn that the man behind the venture is the unstoppable designer-restaurantier, Sir Terence Conran, who will today unveil plans for a 675-seat restaurant to open in two years' time on the site of the old Marquee Club in Wardour Street.

The as yet unnamed restaurant will be half as big again as Sir Terence's successful Quaglino's in Bury Street, St James's, which seats 450 people. Sir Terence and his partner, Joel Kissin, already have one restaurant complex larger than Quaglino's in his Gastrodome at Butler's Wharf, south of

restaurants together serving 600 covers. He also owns Bibendum in the former Michelin headquarters in Chelsea.

Not content with such offerings to the capital's gastronomes, he plans to make the new restaurant larger than anything to be found in Europe. Paris can boast only the 500-seat La Coupole, followed by the 250-seat Ledoyen, off the Champs Elysees. The largest restaurant in the world is the Royal Dragon in Bangkok, which was opened in October 1990 and seats 5,000 people who are served by 1,200 waiters.

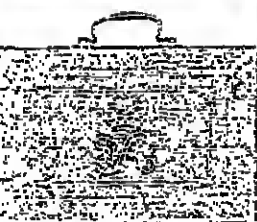
America has at least ten restaurants that seat more than 1,000 at a time, and at least one can serve almost 2,000. The Horizon Clubhouse, at the new Gulf Greyhound dog track in La Marque,

mignon to almost 2,000 punters. Champagne is available for those who have something to celebrate.

The philosophy behind this relentless urge to open ever more grand and spacious restaurants may lie in Sir Terence's own words: "There are never too many good restaurants, only too many restaurants." But there are also sound business reasons for squeezing yet another restaurant into Soho.

Mr Kissin said yesterday: "We are sure there is a market for a restaurant this size. When we developed the Gastrodome people said we could never find customers, and it was the same with Quaglino's, which now we could fill many times over every night. The new restaurant is likely to be rather cheaper than Quaglino's and

### IN THE TIMES THIS WEEK



#### The big Budget

● Tomorrow Kenneth Clarke will deliver what could be the largest number of financial proposals ever made in one day. They will affect every home in the land.

● Making sense of all this information will not be easy. But The Times on Wednesday will help, leading readers through the Chancellor's plans in a special Budget supplement.

● With Anatole Kaletsky and Peter Riddell on hand to analyse the economics and the politics, and Matthew Parris and Peter Brookes providing light relief, The Times coverage will match the biggest of Budgets.

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES







## Rape victim aged 84 is left for dead in wardrobe

By Bill Frost

AN INTRUDER who battered and raped an 84-year-old widow and then left her imprisoned beneath an upturned wardrobe had intended that she would not survive, detectives said yesterday.

Det Insp Judy Wright, who is leading the hunt for the rapist, has said she is horrified by the attack. She considered it was "the worst" she had encountered in her 18-year police career.

Police have revealed that the "very fragile" pensioner was subjected to a severe beating and threatened with a kitchen knife at her home in Camden Town, north London. After he ransacked her bedroom, the intruder cooked himself a meal of bacon and eggs before carrying out the rape.

Officers were called to the scene by a neighbour who was concerned after seeing a light left on downstairs in the widow's home and a smashed pane of glass.

They found the old lady trapped beneath the upturned wardrobe. Other items of furniture, including a heavy fire-suitcase and a marble table top, had been stacked on top to prevent her from struggling free.

Det Insp Wright said the old lady was asleep in the downstairs dining room of her home in the Rochester Square area of Camden Town when she was woken by the man at

**■ Detectives believe that a man who attacked a pensioner in her home had no intention of allowing her to survive**

about 3pm on Friday. He threatened her with a carving knife, then severely beat her, bruising her face, arms and legs. It is believed he had already ransacked a bedroom. He subsequently cooked the bacon and eggs in the pensioner's kitchen. While he was eating, the woman escaped to a bedroom — but the intruder followed and raped her.

She fled to another room, but he followed her and forced her into a wardrobe, which he pulled down so that the doors faced the floor.

Then he piled the furniture on top of it, to ensure she was trapped.

Det Insp Wright said the assault may have taken place between 3.15pm and 5pm, so the widow was probably in the wardrobe for two hours before police were called and freed her.

Asked whether police could have been hunting for a murderer if the neighbour had not been so alert, she said: "I think we would have done." The attacker had intended that she did not get out.

The rapist may have been high on drugs, Det Insp Wright said yesterday. She described the man as "very confident". Last night, the

widow was "quite poorly but stable" in hospital. A police officer was staying at her bedside.

Det Insp Wright added: "She is a very strong woman but obviously still very confused about what happened." It would be some time before she was able to recall all the details of her ordeal.

The attacker was white, 5ft 8in to 5ft 10in tall, of medium build, in his mid-20s, with fair gingerish hair brushed back off his face. He was wearing a sandy coloured sports jacket and blue-grey trousers, and had no strong accent.

Det Insp Wright asked anyone who saw a man matching the description in the vicinity of Rochester Square or Murray Street last Friday, or could otherwise help, to come forward. She gave a warning that the rapist was "a very dangerous man".

Police used a helicopter and dogs yesterday to help search for a missing 80-year-old woman. Gladys Salter was last seen walking by the river Wey at Weybridge, Surrey, on Saturday. Her handbag and its contents, and her gloves, were later found by the river bank. She is said to be frail, deaf and confused.



Juliet Clibborn, upset by plans to close the hospital that has saved her. "We should hang on to what is best in British medicine," she says

## US patient relies on threatened London hospital

By Jeremy Laurence  
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH woman living in America is commuting across the Atlantic every three months for treatment at a London teaching hospital because US doctors say it is the only one that is capable of dealing with her rare condition.

Juliet Clibborn, 45, flies to London from Washington for treatment at St Bartholomew's Hospital, which is due to close under the government's

plan to cut the number of hospitals in London.

Mrs Clibborn, a British citizen, suffers from a rare form of high blood pressure. Doctors at the National Institutes of Health, a leading American medical research centre, told Mrs Clibborn "there was only one hospital able to sort me out, and that was Barts".

Her drug dosage needs constant adjustment so she has installed a fax at her home in Washington and is in touch weekly with Professor Anthony

Raine, who leads the St Bartholomew's team.

Mrs Clibborn said she was "terribly upset" by the proposal to close St Bartholomew's and merge some departments with the Royal London Hospital. "Here I've got evidence that Barts is held in high esteem around the world and yet Virginia Bottomley [the health secretary] seems determined to close it. I feel terribly strongly that we should hang on to what's best in British medicine."

Professor Raine, head of renal medicine at St Bartholomew's, said Mrs Clibborn's condition was very unusual but was now under control. "Her life was being threatened by the surges of blood pressure which were so high they were sending her coronary arteries into spasm. It needed a co-ordinated team approach to devise her treatment, which is one of the major strengths of this place. The quality of integrated clinical care patients get here is second to none and that could be lost if we are relocated."

## Concern rises over Turkish soccer trial

By Frances Gibb and John Goodbody

SIX British football supporters will stand trial in Istanbul tomorrow charged with criminal damage and public order offences arising from the violence before Manchester United's European cup defeat earlier this month.

The trial takes place amid mounting concern that the six were seized indiscriminately and have become scapegoats for widespread hostility to British fans in the wake of hooliganism on the Continent.

Nearly 200 supporters were held by Turkish authorities after an Istanbul hotel was allegedly wrecked and its lobby ransacked, damaging property worth thousands of pounds. About 160 supporters were detained and then deported. A further six were held in custody.

MPS, football authorities and fans have maintained that the random nature of the six arrests and detention was an infringement of civil liberties.

They have been inundated with complaints from supporters who made the Turkey trip and Tom Pendry, shadow sports minister, who has urged John Major to intervene, plans to make a statement to Parliament.

In a letter to the prime minister, Mr Pendry said: "Eye-witness accounts indicate that many of those arrested had little part in any criminal behaviour, and even the chief liaison officer present said they had been found guilty by association."

Ten Britons who were arrested in Turkey at the weekend had not told the Foreign Office of their plan to visit an area under emergency law. Seven members of the delegation of 12 trade unionists and journalists returned to London yesterday, after being held for 26 hours while travelling in southeast Turkey to investigate alleged government atrocities against Kurds.

## Commuter misery runs alongside Tube hunt

By Edward Gorman

THOUSANDS of London commuters again face disrupted journeys today as London Underground continues its search for the fault that has closed part of the Central Line for nearly a week.

Despite working round the clock since Wednesday, engineers have been unable to trace the fault in old cabling east of Liverpool Street station. Underground managers, aware of passengers' anger, acknowledged that finding the fault had been a "long, slow and methodical process". But they added that until engineers were sure they had solved the problem, the line would not be reopened.

The problem caused shut-downs last week when power to large sections of six lines went down, trapping 20,000 people in tunnels and delaying about 450,000 passengers.

The Central Line east of Liverpool Street, with 24 stations, has been shut since then, forcing about 40,000 passengers to resort to cars and buses. This morning, special buses will again pick up commuters from their local stations and take them to the nearest Underground station on a functioning line.

London Underground said up to a hundred engineers were trying to find the cause of the problem in the cabling, which goes back more than 50 years. The main focus had shifted to 12 sub-stations delivering power to the Central Line. Engineers were working with teams from London Electricity and the consultant engineers Kennedy & Duncan. "We've had power failures before but were able to identify and rectify them quite quickly," a London Underground spokesman said. "The problem this time is that the fault is intermittent and inconsistent. Sometimes the power goes down while trains are moving on the line, at other times when they are not." Replacing the cabling, work that would take weeks, was not seen as an option.

## Founding Carry On star dies of cancer

By Jenny Knight

KENNETH Connor, the comedy actor, died yesterday aged 75 after a short battle against cancer.

Mr Connor was best known for his roles in the Carry On films. He starred in the first of the series, *Carry On Sergeant*, in 1958. More recently he played the role of the amorous undertaker Alphonse in BBC TV's *Allo 'Allo*.

Peter Rogers, producer of the Carry On films, said: "That's another one of the team gone. He was a wonderful artist and a very funny man and will be very sadly missed. He always kept us in fits of laughter on the set and when he and Joan Sims got together, it was hysterical."

Mr Connor was awarded the MBE in 1991 for services to show business.

Connor's first love was the cinema, where his comedy talents were used for more

than 40 years. One of his first parts was a tiny role as a taxi driver in the 1955 Ealing comedy, *The Ladykillers*, alongside Alec Guinness, Peter Sellers and Herbert Lom.

Obituary, page 21



Connor in Carry On films from the first

## Women relaunch radio bid

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

A RADIO station aimed specifically at women by women is expected to be among bidders to run Britain's third independent national radio service, which the Radio Authority will advertise tomorrow.

A spokesman for Radio Viva, which applied unsuccessfully earlier this year to run an FM service in London comprising music and chat aimed at women aged 25 to 49, said that the group was considering applying for the new licence. Several other broadcasting

groups, including Independent Television News, Reuters, Associated Newspapers and LBC, which loses its two London licences next year, are also expected to bid.

The new AM station, which will come on air in early 1995, will complement the two existing independent national radio services, Classic FM and Virgin 1215, which have contributed to the challenge by the commercial radio sector to the BBC. As the service must cater for tastes and interests demonstrably different from

the classical and adult rock music output of the two existing INR stations, it will have to be speech-based, which means at least 51 per cent of its airtime in any three hours consists of spoken material.

Lord Chalfont, the Radio Authority chairman, which licenses and regulates commercial radio, said: "INR3 could be anything from an all-speech news/talk station or one with a sports emphasis to a mix of, say, studio conversations, phone-ins and appropriate music."

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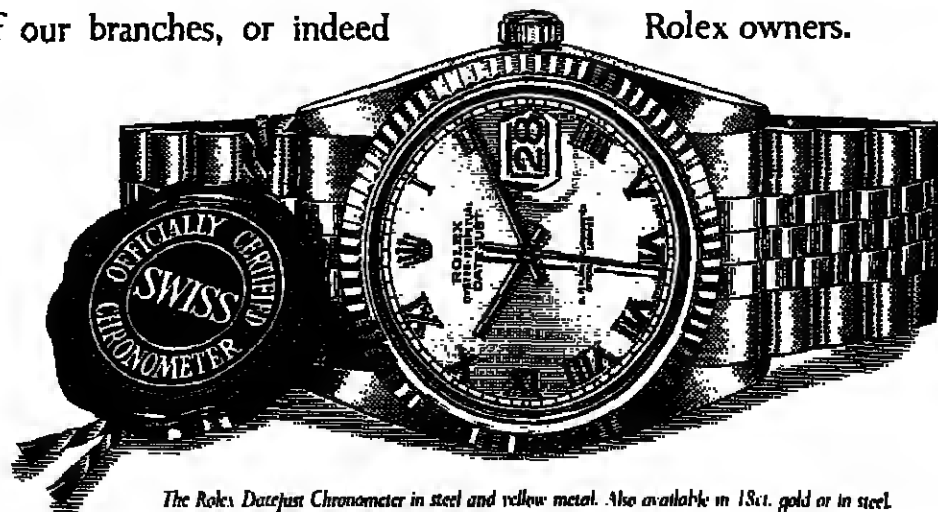
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هكذا عن الأصل



# Tories to abolish housing privileges of single parents

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are planning to house single mothers in blocks of flats and other buildings scheduled for demolition and redevelopment.

They want to sweep away what they regard as the injustice of the present law which treats lone parents on council waiting lists more favourably than childless couples and single people.

Lone parents have at the moment to be given permanent homes, which means they cannot be housed in buildings that may be perfectly habitable but are due to be replaced or extensively refurbished. Nor do they have to go on a waiting list.

These restrictions do not apply to other people waiting for a council house, who can find their hopes of a permanent home repeatedly dashed as they are leap-frogged by single mothers.

Ministers say the existing law creates a "perverse encouragement" for single parenthood and is resented by

Ministers deny that proposals to house unmarried mothers in flats awaiting demolition are intended to penalise them

couples who play by the rules and delay starting a family until they have a roof over their heads.

Under the new arrangements, to be set out in a white paper early next year, council houses will be allocated solely on the basis of housing need. Single mothers' automatic rights to council accommodation will be scrapped.

The environment department will issue new guidelines to local authorities, urging them to try to persuade lone parents to remain within the family home. Ministers also want to see a greater emphasis on adoption as an alternative to single parenthood.

But if the family home is unsuitable, young mothers will be offered alternative accommodation.

Ministers are understood to be opposed to opening hostels, staffed by wardens, for single mothers and their children.

They believe self-help can provide a better answer.

Councils will be expected to house groups of young mothers in short-life blocks of flats and encourage them to club together so that one or two women can look after all the children, while the others go out to work.

Ministers believe that such an approach will help break the "dependency culture" of a life on state benefits.

A review of the homelessness laws was announced by Sir George Young, the housing minister, at the Conservative conference last month. John Gummer, the environment secretary, is strongly backing the changes.

Britain spends more than £5 billion a year on benefits to 1.3 million single parents. Ministers are concerned that the "never married" category is a rapidly rising proportion of the total.

While they recognise that their proposals are likely to encounter a storm of criticism, they deny that they are seeking to hammer lone parents.

One source said: "It is too easily presented as an attack on single mothers. It is not. We are trying to change attitudes which lead to very young women starting families, which they then have to bring up on their own in isolation."

"Children of single parents are more at risk of becoming involved in crime and doing badly at school."

Sir George told the Tory conference in Blackpool that there was clear evidence that some single mothers had been encouraged to become pregnant to obtain housing priority.

He said it was wrong that young couples, waiting to start a family, could not be rehoused ahead of a pregnant teenager.

It was also wrong that parents should have an incentive to evict children because this permitted the children to jump the queue for council housing.



Canon Grigg with the statue described as inappropriate for the Anglican church

## 'Gawdy' statue upsets parish

By NIGEL BURNHAM

A STATUE of the Virgin Mary installed by the rector of a church in Humberside has prompted a dispute that is threatening to split the congregation.

Thirty-five parishioners at St Mary's church in Cottingham object to the 4ft statue on doctrinal and artistic grounds. They have complained to the Archdeacon that it does not have permission to be in the church.

The statue, displayed by Canon Terence Grigg with the support of the church council, depicts the Virgin Mary standing on a serpent with an apple in its mouth.

According to Professor Raymond Brett, one

of the protesters, the main theological objection is that the image suggests that she has equal power with Christ to redeem mankind, which is not supported by scripture. "It is also a very gawdy, Italianate-style representation of the Virgin Mary and as such not really in keeping with the traditional character of a Church of England church," he said yesterday.

Canon Grigg, who opposes the ordination of women, denies accusations of trying to Catholicise the church. "All we want to do here is to dedicate a statue of our patron saint, the Virgin Mary in our church," he said.

He has refused to remove the statue, or have it repainted. The dispute is to be settled by a meeting of the Consistory Court in February.

## Poll puts reporters beyond belief

By PETER RIDDELL

JOURNALISTS are now trusted as little as government ministers to tell the truth. They are bottom of a list ranking the veracity of 15 diverse groups headed by doctors and teachers.

A MORI poll for The Times, taken a week ago, shows that the groups which came under fire during the Thatcher years, such as civil servants and trade union officials, have recovered their standing with the public over the past decade.

Since 1983, the proportion of the public generally trusting civil servants to tell the truth has risen from 25 to 37 per cent. For trade union officials, there has been an improvement from 18 to 32 per cent by comparison with the days of the unions' greatest unpopularity, due to their low profile role in recent years.

Top of the list, both on 84 per cent, are doctors and teachers. They are closely followed by clergymen and priests, who were in top place in 1983, but have slipped five percentage points to 80 per cent.

After a number of controversies over the criminal justice system, judges have

dropped from fourth to sixth place with the number trusting them down from 77 to 68 per cent.

The standing of the police has not, however, been similarly damaged with a slight firming of two points to 63 per cent. But a quarter of the public still believes the police do not tell the truth, down from nearly a third in 1983. In general, the middle classes and those living in rural areas are more inclined to trust the police.

But the biggest change has been in the public's view of journalists. The number trusting their veracity has virtually halved since 1983 and now stands at 10 per cent. This is the same as government ministers, with politicians in general ranking slightly higher at 14 per cent. More than 80 per cent of the public believes that journalists and ministers do not tell the truth.

Television news readers, though, have gained in public esteem. They are trusted to tell the truth by 72 per cent, up nine percentage points over the decade, despite the fact that journalists write the bulletins read by news readers.

## Family's 94 honours up for auction

By JOHN SHAW

A COLLECTION of 94 medals won by successive generations of the same family in campaigns stretching from the Afghan wars to the second world war are to be auctioned at Sotheby's in Sussex tomorrow. They are expected to fetch about £40,000.

The vendors are the descendants and relatives of General Sir Reginald Hart and the trophies include the Victoria Cross, five Distinguished Service Orders, two Grand Crosses of the Bath, one Companion of the Order of the Bath, two Companion of St Michael and St George medals, one Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, one CBE, two OBEs and an MBE.

Sir Reginald, who lived from 1848 to 1931, and 11 descendants were decorated after they served in campaigns throughout the world. He set the tone in Afghanistan in 1878 when a fellow officer urged: "Come on Hart! No good hanging about here, no VC's going today." By the afternoon, he had won one for rescuing a wounded man when tribesmen attacked.

The award was presented by Queen Victoria at Windsor, who pushed the medal pin straight into Sir Reginald's chest.

## Gay claim sailor fights dismissal

By ALEXANDRA FREAN  
AND MICHAEL EVANS

A SAILOR discharged from the Royal Navy for allegedly being homosexual is planning to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

Brett Burnell, 20, was dismissed after a tip-off to the Royal Navy's special investigation branch that he had visited a "gay" pub in Portsmouth. During the investigation, the junior rating was questioned about his personal life and his locker on board HMS Active, a Type 21 frigate, was searched.

Homosexuality remains an offence meriting instant dismissal. However, Mr Burnell, a sonar operator from the Rhonda valley who is now unemployed, has started legal action to reverse the decision.

His solicitor has written to the Ministry of Defence requesting a review of the case. If the ministry refuses, Mr Burnell plans to seek a judicial review and, failing that, an appeal to the European Court. The methods used in a five-month enquiry to "prove" Mr Burnell's alleged homosexuality were captured on film by chance, when a television camera team were filming the work of the Royal Navy police. His story appears on Channel 4's *Cutting Edge* programme tonight.

## Pensioners must wait 12 years for damages

By JENNY KNIGHT

AN ELDERLY couple will have to wait 12 years to receive full compensation awarded by a court against a builder who made a mess of a kitchen extension.

George Varty, 79, and his wife Doreen, 77, will receive the money at a rate of £2 a week. The builder, Weldon Alm, was allowed to pay in instalments because he is now unemployed.

Mr Varty said yesterday: "This is justice gone mad. We don't even know that we will be around to collect the money in 2005. I'll be 91 then and my

wife will be 89." The couple were awarded £1,251 against the builder after a six-year battle for compensation.

The Vartys took out a mortgage to pay Mr Alm £2,000 to build an extension to their cottage in Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan.

An independent surveyor found dangerous electrical work, poor plumbing and an uneven floor, Caerphilly County Council was told.

The extension had to be demolished, and the Vartys paid another builder £3,000 to put the work right.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Three charged over policeman's murder

Three men have been charged in connection with the murder of PC Patrick Dunne, the community policeman killed answering a routine call last month.

Richard Anthony Watts, 34, unemployed, of Streatham Vale, south London, has been charged with the murders of PC Dunne and William Danso, a suspected drugs dealer. Gary Nelson, 23, a freelance security guard, of Earlsfield, southwest London, has been charged with conspiracy to murder Mr Danso and with the attempted murder of Mohammed Massaquoi. Anthony Francis, 28, a carpenter of Tooting, south London, has been charged with conspiracy to murder Mr Danso.

## Dentist's Aids death

Dozens of people phoned a helpline yesterday after a homosexual dentist in north London was reported to have died of an AIDS-related disease. Vikram Advani, 43, died of bronchial pneumonia last Monday. He had a practice in Camden which closed in 1991. The local health authority said the risk to patients was minimal.

## Bumblebee roadshow

A roadshow of 2,000 stolen items opens in central London on Wednesday in an attempt to reunite the victims of crime with their possessions. Hugh Scully, of the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*, will help to unveil Operation Bumblebee's haul in St James's. The items, including jewellery, paintings and a jet-ski, will travel later to seven other London venues.

## Stabbed woman named

A woman who was stabbed to death in her council flat at Clapham, south London, has been named by police as Josephine Ann Reid, 25. Miss Reid, who was unemployed, was found on Friday by two people who had come to view a room to let in her three-bedroom home. She was last seen alive on Wednesday morning by a neighbour.

## School assault claim

A comprehensive school is to be investigated by Southwark education authority over claims that it failed to report to police alleged sexual assaults by pupils on three teenage girls. Geoffrey Chaucer School, in southeast London, allegedly breached an agreement made after a teacher claimed she was raped by pupils at the school in March.

## Miners accept closure

Miners voted to accept the planned closure of Wearmouth colliery at Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, the last pit in the Durham coalfield. They rejected the advice of union leaders who wanted to invoke the review procedure. Millions of pounds have been invested in the pit, which employed 670 men and has huge coal reserves.

## BT brings users to book

BT will launch a campaign next spring to get its five million ex-directory subscribers back into the phone book. "We are finding general disenchantment with the service just because so many numbers are ex-directory, and operators are being abused," a spokesman said. About a quarter of British numbers are ex-directory, the highest in the world. London has the biggest percentage, 43, followed by Essex with 40 per cent.

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- ☐ Neustradamus - The Final Countdown... what to expect as the year 2000 looms.
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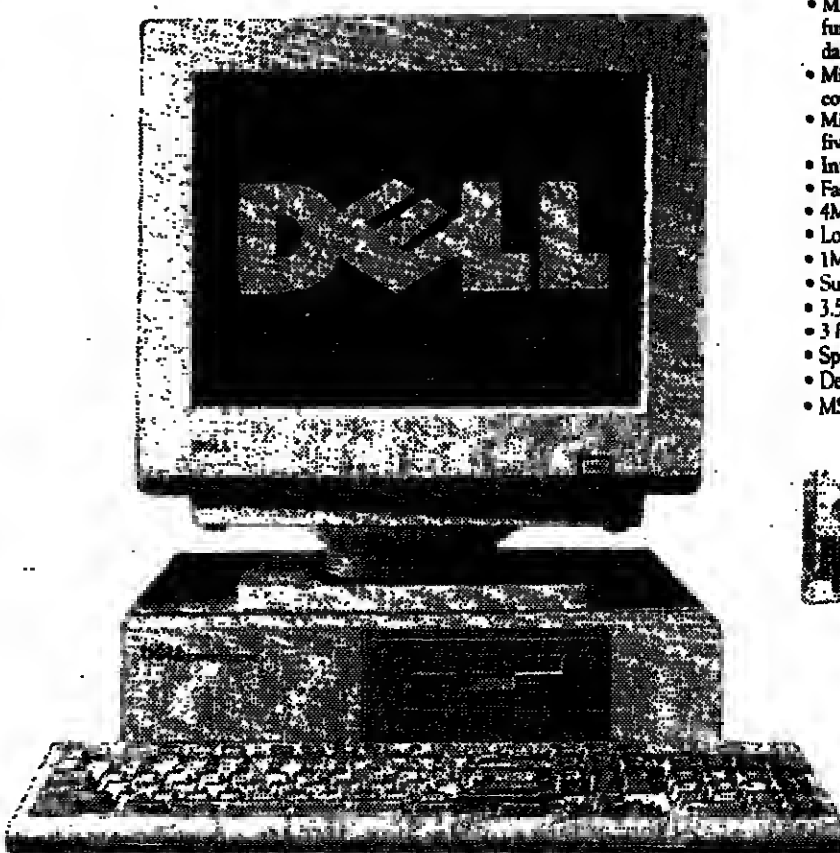
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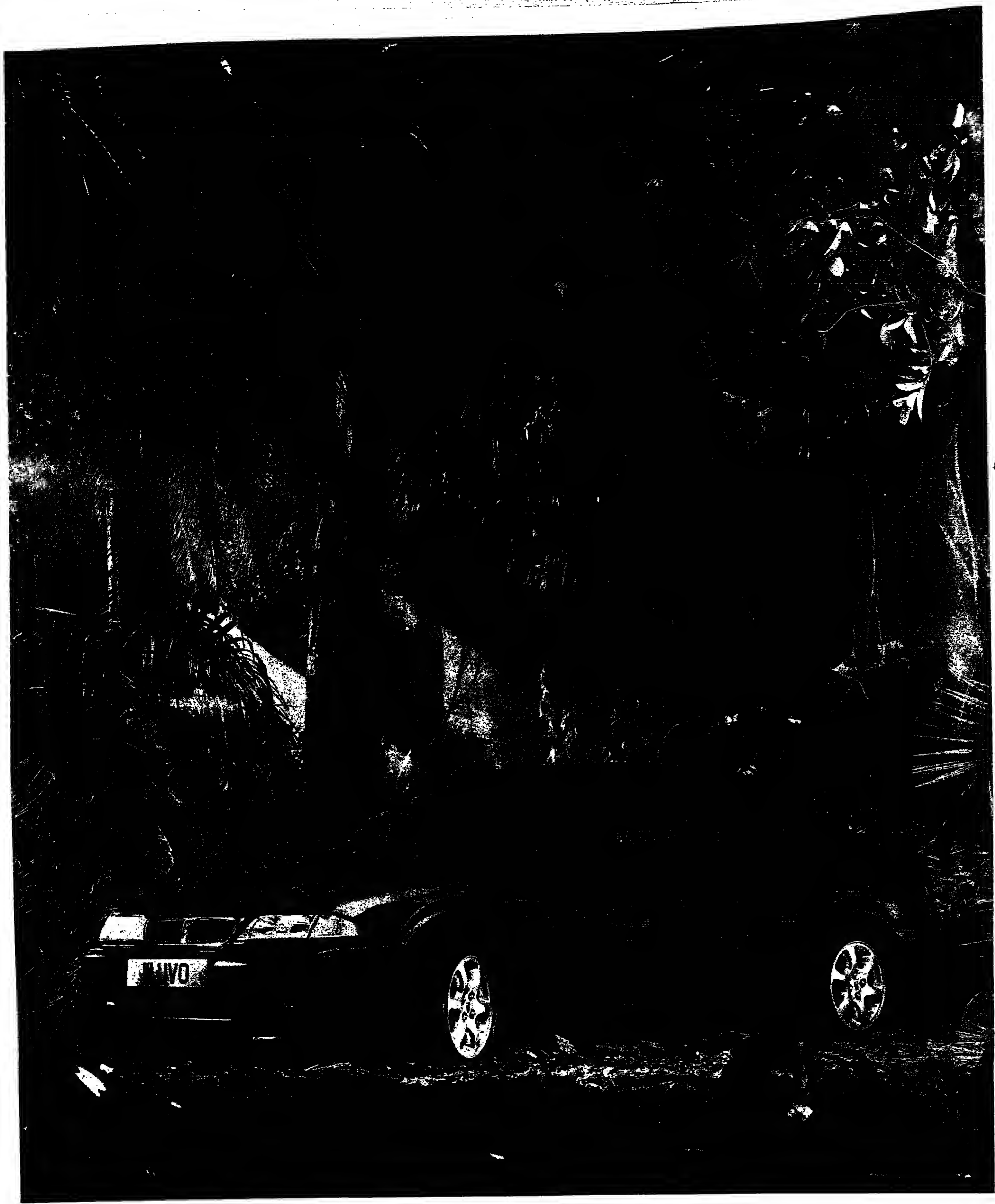




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## Extinction threatens traditional breeds

By OUR AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A THIRD of the breeds of animals reared or used by farmers face extinction, according to a study by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Every week a breed may be disappearing somewhere in the world.

The FAO estimates that about 1,300 of the world's 4,000 breeds of domestic livestock are at risk. Among the breeds found to be in danger are the seaweed-eating North Ronaldsay sheep which graze mainly on the beaches of the thinly grassed Orkney Islands. Only about 1,000 of the animals are registered.

Other threatened breeds include the Reggiana cattle of northern Italy, suppliers of milk for the best parmesan cheese, the Blanco Orejinegro cattle of Colombia, which are adapted to mountain life and resistant to parasites, and the Min pig of Asia which can survive in extreme cold.

The FAO's research project, the World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity, was started three years ago to give early warning of possible breed loss. Indiscriminate cross-breeding, the lack of commercial incentives to use older, traditional breeds and the modern emphasis on developing a few highly productive lines have all reduced diversity. Some breeds have been wiped out by war and natural disaster.

David Steane, who is involved in the project, said: "Our aim should be to preserve overall genetic diversity rather than every single breed. To do that we need to measure the genetic distance between different breeds. Where breeds are very closely related there is no need to keep all of them."

## Intensive farms stifle the skylark's sweetest song

By MICHAEL HORNSBY COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

■ The agriculture industry's relentless drive for bigger yields has had unwelcome side-effects among the bird population

THE "shrill delight" of the skylark's song celebrated by Shelley is fading fast from the countryside, according to the most complete bird census in the British Isles.

Although still common, the number of skylarks has dwindled alarmingly in just two decades, falling from three million to 1.5 million breeding pairs on farmland, its favourite breeding ground.

No other species has sustained such a big loss in numbers.

The varying fortunes of the skylark and 340 other birds are meticulously chronicled in *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland*, which will be launched on December 15 by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Compiled over the four years from 1988 to 1991 by the British Trust for Ornithology, the Irish Wildbird Conservancy and the Scottish Ornithologists' Club, the 520-page atlas is a sequel to a survey published in 1976, for which the information was collected between 1968 and 1972.

David Gibbons, one of the publication's authors, said: "Over the 20 years between



The corn bunting, in decline like many native birds

the two surveys, the distribution and numbers of many birds have changed markedly, but in many cases we do not know why. The one clear trend is the shrinking population of most farmland birds, almost certainly due to farming changes."

One crucial influence has been the switch from spring to autumn sowing of cereals. This has boosted crop yield but means that fields of post-harvest stubble, which are rich in the grain and weed

seeds on which skylarks and many other birds feed, get ploughed up almost at once instead of being left through the winter.

Of the 28 species of farmland birds in Britain that are covered in the atlas, no fewer than 24 are less widely found than they were 20 years ago. Among those affected are corn buntings, stone curlews, grey partridges, corncrakes, linnet, lapwings, tree sparrows and greenfinches. Among the 174 non-farmland species, by contrast, the number of birds that are increasing (85) roughly balances those in decline (89).

Skylarks are specially handicapped by the change in farming practices because they prefer to nest in immature crops. By early May, the start of the birds' breeding season, cereals sown the previous autumn have grown too tall to attract them.

All farm birds have suffered from the use of fertilisers and pesticides, which reached a peak in the mid-1980s, and reduced the variety of weeds, insects and other food in arable fields.

Some hard-pressed birds, though less common than they were in 1968-72, have managed to halt and even reverse population declines by colonising new territory. These include the nightjar and the woodlark, which have found

refuge in newly felled woodland, partly making up for the loss and fragmentation of open heath, their traditional haunt.

All told, the atlas records 204 native breeding species in Britain and 137 in Ireland, five more than in 1968-72, representing perhaps a total of 87 million pairs of birds.

The wren — with more than seven million pairs — is the most abundant species. The rarest is the scarlet rosefinch, for which just one nest was found during the census period, though more have been seen since.

The rosefinch is one of a handful of birds that have begun or resumed breeding here in small numbers since the last census, for reasons that are not clear. Others are the red-necked grebe, the whooper swan and the purple sandpiper.

On the debit side, the snowy owl, the black tern, the great northern diver and the hoopoe have been lost as native breeders and are now only migrant visitors.

Two birds, the wryneck, a member of the woodpecker family with a tell-tale habit of twisting its head, and the red-backed shrike are "perilously close to extinction". There is no clear reason for their decline, which began in the middle of the last century and cannot easily be blamed on recent changes in farming or forestry.

For the purpose of the census, Britain and Ireland were divided into nearly 4,000 squares measuring 10km by 10km.

A volunteer army of 5,000 amateur ornithologists then visited at least eight of the 25 tetrads (2km by 2km) in each square; some 43,000 tetrads in all. They were not allowed to spend more than two hours in each.

"We wanted to be sure that our count reflected the density of birds and not the density or stamina of bird-watchers," Mr Gibbons said.

□ *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991* (T & A.D. Poyser, 24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX; £40)



A sheep is prepared for the ring and judging at The Royal Smithfield Show

## Britain tightens animal checks

Tougher health checks on imported livestock were announced by the government yesterday to allay growing fears among farmers and vets that the European Community's single market is promoting the spread of animal diseases (Michael Hornsby writes).

Opening The Royal Smithfield Show at Earls Court in west London, Gillian

Shepherd, the agriculture minister, blamed the need for the new measures in part on the failure of other EC member states to obey animal health regulations.

"Some people seem to believe that the single market means a free-for-all and that animals can move without restriction," Mrs Shepherd said. "Live animals and products can only move within the

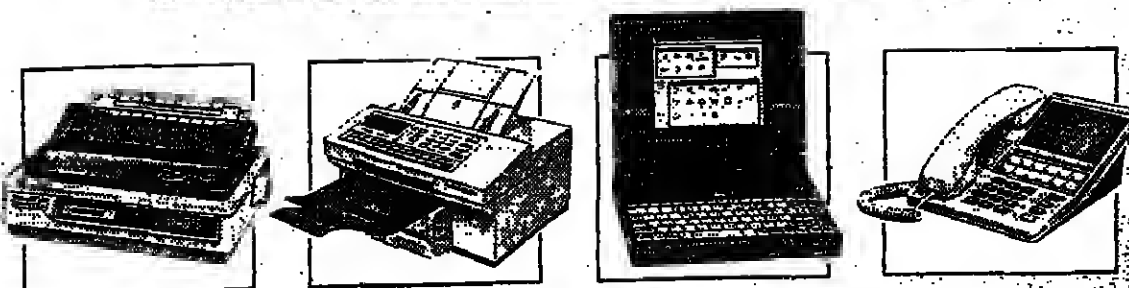
single market subject to clearly defined rules."

There would be veterinary surveillance for 24-hour periods of all livestock exported or imported through all South Coast ports. The periods would be chosen at random. It was important to ensure that Britain's exports met the highest health standards.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18

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## Reforms have led to evictions, closures, higher prices and less choice for drinkers

## Publican puts brewing giant in the dock

By TONY DAVE

A CHALLENGE to regulations that have led to the closure of hundreds of pubs will be launched this week by the landlord of a pub in the back streets of Norwich.

The future of hundreds more inns will depend on the outcome of the High Court case being brought by James "Tiny" Little, of the Alexandra, against Courage, one of the country's leading brewers.

The test case, which starts on Wednesday, stems from the way the government implemented recommendations from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A select committee of MPs has found that the changes, which were supposed to create greater choice for customers, have led instead to the closure of pubs, eviction of tenants, an increase in prices and a restriction of choice.

Mr Little's livelihood is under threat because he claims the brewers have used the regulations to double his rent and demand that he signs a 20-year lease instead of the five-year term he had expected. "It looked like certain bankruptcy within a short time," he said. "I had little choice: either clear out or fight."

Mr Little, a former chief petty officer in the Royal Navy's Polaris submarine

fleet, decided to fight and is being supported by groups including the Save the British Pub Fund.

Under the regulations, publicans were brought within the scope of the Landlord and Tenant Act, were given greater choice over the beers they sold and were allowed to take the profits from non-drink-related businesses. In return, the brewers expected them to pay higher rents and take responsibility for repairing their premises, which has led hundreds of publicans into debt.

Before the regulations, known as the Beer Orders, were introduced, Mr Little said that he had agreed a lease at £13,200 a year. He then learnt that he was no longer negotiating with Courage.

One of the main changes demanded by the government was that the leading brewers reduce the number of pubs they controlled. Courage decided that the reduction would affect the company's viability and transferred its pubs to GrandMet in return for that company's brewing interests. GrandMet set up a subsidiary, Intreprenuer Estates, to control 7,000 pubs brought together in the merger. "After agreeing a deal with Courage, the next thing we received was



James Little, landlord of the Alexandra in Norwich, who is challenging Courage in the High Court over the renegotiation of his lease

a letter from GrandMet saying it would not be renewing the original lease," Mr Little said. "The company was prepared to offer a 20-year lease at £32,500 a year or £28,000 if I signed immediately," he claimed.

The central point to be decided in the High Court is whether Mr Little is entitled to exercise his option to renew his original lease. Although Courage is the defendant, its case will be argued by Intreprenuer, which now owns the pub and claims that

it cannot renew the original lease, which is in breach of the conditions in the Beer Orders.

"If the case goes against Mr Little, it will have an immediate effect on the 430 Courage leaseholders who have refused to sign the 20-year Intreprenuer leases," Alan Temple, spokesman for the association representing the Courage tenants, said yesterday. "It could also allow other brewers to take a tough line with their tenants and demand that they sign long leases at high rents."

## THE PUBS CRISIS: A CASE HISTORY

DAVID Coe is one of scores of publicans who signed a new lease and now face mounting debts (Jack Crossley writes). He took over The Ship, a village pub near Eastbourne, East Sussex, in March 1990 on a 20-year lease from Intreprenuer at a rent of £27,000 a year.

The pub was then selling 220 barrels of beer a year, which he increased to 250 until the recession reduced his sales to the original level.

In November 1992, following the introduction of the Beer Orders regulations, Mr Coe was told that his rent was being increased to £32,400. He refused to accept the increase and

is still paying the original rent. "When I moved in, there was a hole in the roof, the cellar stairs were rotten and the whole pub needed decorating. I paid £15,000 for fixtures and fittings, but in the first two years we had to spend another £19,000 keeping the place afloat. I have still got a £10,000 overdraft. Profit in the first year amounted to £1,500. Last year we produced a £12,000 profit, but I still can't afford the £32,400 GrandMet is asking."

GrandMet says the rent of The Ship was increased because it had greater commercial opportunities, and it is hopeful of negotiating an amicable agreement with Mr Coe.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Day-leave inmate flies to France

A prisoner released from jail for marriage counselling fled to France in a hired plane—then surrendered to Paris police, saying he wanted to go back to prison. Graham Jones, 35, used his aero club membership to hire a plane and flee after being given home leave from Send prison, Surrey.

Police were alerted when the controller of Popham Flying Club near Basingstoke, Hampshire, reported a plane missing. Inspector Gerry Hutchings said: "Jones is a qualified pilot and used his papers to hire a plane. The club thought he was going for a spin around Hampshire." Jones abandoned the aircraft in a field near Cherbourg.

## Drug arrests

Police and customs officers recovered 60kg of cannabis resin and more than £300,000 in an operation in London, Brighton and Northampton. Four men and two women were arrested.

## Eton death

An examination of Timothy McPherson, a chef found dead in his flat at Eton College, showed that he died of smoke inhalation. Police said the death was not suspicious.

## Witness hunt

The parents of hit-and-run victim Jenima Pyckett, 12, will return to the scene of her death in Barking, east London, today to try to find witnesses. Her funeral is tomorrow.

## Bus danger

Two drivers on a coach carrying 50 schoolchildren to Leeds after a trip to London swapped seats while travelling on the M1. They have been sacked.

## Unseated

Outpatients in Southampton requesting a commode have been put on a waiting list after the health trust lost 600. An amnesty has been granted on unreturned commodes.

## Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings premium bonds weekly draw are: £100,000: 19WN 106366 (winner lives in Stoke-on-Trent, value of holding £1,800); £50,000: 21JW 220225 (Guildford, £8,506); £25,000: 29WZ 344990 (Avon, £450).

## Fires damage 12 Kent farms

By LIN JENKINS

FORENSIC scientists started investigating a series of barn fires yesterday that broke out in rural Kent within four hours of each other.

Police and firemen believe that arson was responsible. The 12 fires destroyed hay and farm machinery worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Five of the barns were still ablaze yesterday and the flames were not expected to die down until today, but the experts began searching for

clues in the remains of the other barns.

At one stage in the early hours yesterday, 160 firefighters were out dealing with the blazes on separate farms in the county.

A spokesman for Ashford police said yesterday that nobody had claimed responsibility for starting the fires and that the premises were not connected. The farms affected were dairy, arable and mixed farms in the Maidstone and Ashford areas.

The first of the dozen re-

ports of blazes came at 10.45pm on Saturday of a fire at Marden. Shortly afterwards, a fire was reported four miles away at Staplehurst. Most of the fires were in the rural area surrounding Ashford.

"Given the locations and timing, we are treating the fires as suspicious," a spokesman for Kent police said. "There is nothing linking the farms which could account for a motive, and we are appealing for witnesses," he added.

## Dealers cut car prices in sales push

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR dealers are being paid bonuses of up to £1,000 to sell new cars for an end-of-year clearance, in what could prove to be the best time of the year for customers to buy.

Purchasers could save hundreds of pounds on new and used cars over the next few weeks with motor dealers prepared to sell at a loss as their showrooms fill up with unwanted models. Dealers will cover losses with bonuses

worth an average of £300 a car but as high as £1,000—which are paid by manufacturers anxious to keep up the 1993 sales momentum.

Sales of new cars were up by 13.4 per cent in the first 20 days of November and could surge further by the time final figures for the month are announced. But the industry remains fearful that thousands of sales are "bogus", with cars registered as demonstrators or with fleets simply to help the sales charts of manufacturers. The result is a

distorted view of the health of the car market and showrooms filled with cars that dealers cannot sell.

Many dealers will have to make sales because their banks have told them to cut their swollen stocks of cars to reduce borrowings, according to Glass's Car Guide, the industry guidebook to prices of new and used vehicles. Arnie Fenn, chief car editor, said: "There are a lot being told by their banks to get rid of cars... because it is costing

too much to keep cars around in showrooms."

Of the 440,000 sales of new cars registered in August, 50,000 vehicles had no customer to go to. Those cars are now turning up on forecourts as "used" models or demonstrators, some with as few as 1,000 miles on the clock.

"This is definitely a good time to buy," Mr Fenn said. "A dealer selling a £10,000 car may have paid the manufacturer £9,000 and be selling at less than that, but can make up the losses with bonuses."

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TOKEN



# An open letter to Mr. John Major

Scottish Salmon Industry

Perth Scotland

28 November 1993

*Dear Prime Minister,*

The Scottish Salmon industry, the most efficient in Europe, providing over 6,000 jobs and worth more than £200 million to the balance of payments, is facing extinction.

## THE FACTS

**Dumping:** For the third time in five years the Norwegians are flooding the market. In 1990 they were found guilty of dumping in Europe and were also thrown out of the USA for the same offence. Now they are doing it again.

**Subsidies:** The Norwegian salmon industry only survives today because of a £150 million subsidy from the Norwegian Government.

**Now:** The European Commission are attempting to avert the crisis. Under extreme pressure from the Norwegian Government, they have set a totally unrealistic minimum import price - below production costs in both Scotland and Norway.

This allows the Norwegians to dump their massive excess production (up from 140,000 tonnes in 1992 to over 180,000 in 1993) into the EU, while crippling the unsubsidised Scottish and Irish producers - even though Scottish costs are the lowest in Europe, including Norway.

## HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT?

The Norwegian Government was intensely active in presenting its case in Brussels. The British Government's effort was half-hearted, late and ineffective.

## WHAT DO WE WANT?

We are not asking for subsidies. We are not asking for special treatment. All we want is a level playing field.

The Scottish Salmon industry demands that the British Government takes action now.

- To ensure that the reference price, to be introduced by the Commission on January 1 1994, is realistic.
- To insist that measures are put in place to ensure a free and fair market in the future.

The Norwegian Government fights for its salmon industry.

The Irish Government fights for its salmon industry.

Why must the British salmon industry fight alone?

**SCOTTISH SALMON - FIGHTING FOR EXPORTS -  
FIGHTING FOR JOBS - FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL.**

*The Scottish  
Salmon Industry*



# Killer children chill French with echo of Bulger case

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN PARIS

FRANCE was shocked yesterday by the chilling confession of a ten-year-old boy who described how he and two companions beat to death a middle-aged vagrant in a Paris suburb, then concealed his body in a well.

"He was still moving. We carried on. I do not really know why," Boy T said in the first public account of a murder which has similarities with the James Bulger case and has driven France to its own bout of soul-searching on the nature of modern children.

Boy T, who was interviewed by *Le Journal du Dimanche* in the presence of his mother, said his favourite pastime was watching violent films on television. He said he went home after the killing and switched on the television. His mother noticed nothing, he said.

Boy T is one of three boys aged between eight and ten who have been charged with carrying out the attack on Pierre Boura, 37, a vagrant who went by the name of Pierrot, on a strip of wasteland in the centre of Vitry-sur-Seine, a suburb of bleak

■ A boy of ten has described without remorse how he helped to beat a Paris vagrant to death. France has been driven to debate the nature of modern children and the punishment appropriate for the guilty

housing estates near Orly airport. All are at home awaiting a hearing in a children's court.

A vagrant, Jean-Marc, is being held on charges of inciting the children to murder and another, Jacquot, has



James Bulger: experts disagree on punishment

been charged with failing to render assistance. All were arrested a day after the killing on October 29, but the police and Serge Portelli, the investigating judge, said they kept the affair secret until after the furore over the Bulger case.

According to media accounts quoting the police, the children and the vagrants, six boys from Vitry council estates were visiting the waste ground where the men spent their days. The boys had befriended the men and used to go shopping for cigarettes, wine and sausages for them. That day, the boys watched as Pierrot, a new homeless arrival, told Jean-Marc, who is in his forties, that he had burnt down the shed which the men used as a shelter. Jean-Marc knocked him to the ground. Two boys ran away and a 13-year-old watched as Jean-Marc told the boys to hit Pierrot.

There was an apparent contradiction in the accounts of the boy and Jacquot. "There were six boys and they did all the hitting, kicking and punching and using wooden sticks," the third vagrant said on Europe 1 radio yesterday. Boy T was asked if he knew he was doing anything wrong. "Yes, I said to myself it is not right. I am doing something silly," he replied.

The boy described how he and his two friends stripped the tramp naked and dragged his bleeding body to a shallow well. "He was really bleeding from the head. I did not really understand. We covered it with planks and threw it in a sort of well," he said.

The next day they went back and the tramps told the boys to bury the body because a leg was visible. By then, however, the police had visited their homes. Asked what he was going to do now, the boy said: "I do not know. It is Christmas soon and I am going to get a bicycle and a stereo." Asked if he had any regrets, he said: "Yes, I should have left with the two others because it is a pain in the neck having to keep going to the judge."



A youth shows the spot where a vagrant was dumped after being beaten to death

The boy's mother said she believed he had been injured to violence because her last companion had often beaten the child as well as herself before abandoning them. "Perhaps that is why he did not react when he was asked to hit," she said. One of the other two boys also came from a broken home and, like Boy T, had trouble at school,

but the third comes from a relatively comfortable, stable family.

Although the crime, with its adult victim and protagonist, could be viewed as more explicable than the Bulger case, the case has raised the same kind of questions asked in Britain. "In Vitry Just Like Liverpool," said the headline in *France-Soir*. Much is cer-

tain to be made of Boy T's passion for "films which frighten you", as he put it. His heroes, he said, are Bruce Lee, the late martial arts king, Jean-Claude Van Damme, the star of violent Hollywood films, and Sylvester Stallone.

The examining judge decided not to bring murder charges but prosecute for the lesser offence of "deliberate

wounding leading to unintended death" — an equivalent to manslaughter — because he believed the children were too young to understand the consequence of their actions. In any event, they would not face prison because France does not consider children under 13 responsible for criminal actions. If convicted, they could be sent to a home for therapeutic education.

The consensus among dozens of French experts who commented on the Bulger case last week was that the punishment of the guilty pair was less humane than that offered by the French system and that it responded mainly to society's need for vengeance. Commenting this weekend, Paul Messerschmitt, a leading Paris child psychiatrist, disagreed, saying the French system tended too far in the other direction. "It is dangerous to make such crime ordinary. The child no longer knows what is good and what is evil." Police who interviewed the boys said: "They described the scene just as if they were talking about a football match."

Archbishop's warning, page 1  
Letters, page 19

## West offers easing of sanctions to bring Bosnia peace

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

A SHELL slammed into a Sarajevo street yesterday, killing five civilians and serving as a gruesome reminder of what is at stake when the international community meets Bosnia today to try to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in the republic this winter.

Although numerous attempts to broker peace have been stillborn, this time European Union foreign ministers came armed with a radical approach to the conflict: they want to link progress for peace with the gradual suspension of sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia. The plan, formulated by France and Germany, has made America jittery about the prospect of being seen to reward Serbian aggression, but Washington has been careful to avoid outright condemnation. The proposal would also remove growing pressure on the UN to impose sanctions against Croatia, a move that would embarrass Germany and cause new friction in the European Union.

The mortar attack in Sarajevo came as President Izetbegovic left for today's talks. Four people died instantly, one being decapitated and

another losing his legs. The fifth died in hospital. In Geneva, Mr Izetbegovic will meet Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and Mate Boban, leader of the republic's Croats. Three other presidents — Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro — are also due. Mr Izetbegovic said that, if the Serbs refused to make territorial concessions, sanctions on Serbia should be tightened rather than lifted, but this was seen as a preliminary stance.

The Geneva talks come as Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, leaves for Europe with the Clinton administration and its European allies anxious to avoid another public disagreement over Bosnia at a time when transatlantic relations are strained. Although the administration is sceptical of the Franco-German plan, it remembers Mr Christopher's disastrous trip to Europe last May when Britain and France rejected a Washington proposal to arm the Muslims. It has therefore studiously avoided any public comment on the plan, insisting it was still

being examined. A senior German diplomat, Jürgen Chrobog, recently returned from Moscow and Washington and seems to have found support for the plan in both capitals.

Russia predictably pressed for an earlier lifting of sanctions. In Washington some members of the administration wanted to include the Kosovo question in the European plan but the Germans apparently managed to squash that idea. The Franco-German plan puts its main priority on safe delivery of humanitarian aid to the 1.4 million needy people in Bosnia. Tuzla airport would be reopened, but the chief task will be to secure military-protected land corridors.

The threat by Britain and others that food and relief aid will stop next spring if the fighting continues may help to press the warring sides to try to reach an agreement in Geneva. However, Thorvald Stoltenberg, the UN mediator co-chairman of the Geneva talks with Lord Owen, the EU envoy, said last week that he would be "very pleasantly surprised" if the Bosnians struck a deal in Geneva.



A Bosnian Muslim woman and her child fleeing through snow-bound Fojnica in a horse cart at the height of the fighting between Croat and Muslim forces

## Greeks step up pressure on Bonn

BY ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN AND  
MICHAEL BRYON

GERMAN efforts to speed the European Union's recognition of Macedonia have sparked a controversy with Greece and are likely to complicate the search for a solution to the war in Bosnia.

Theodor Pangalos, the Greek minister for European affairs, who wrote off Germany as having the strength of a child, was unrepentant at the weekend. During a visit to Cyprus, he confirmed his anti-German remarks and attacked Turkey as a "thieving child". The Turks, he said, stole northern Cyprus.

Germany called in the Greek envoy to Bonn and relations were described as being "sub-zero". The slugging match began when Bonn started to lobby for European recognition of the Macedonian republic by the end of next month — before Greece takes over the presidency of the European Council of Ministers. Britain and Spain back recognition of Macedonia in December. German diplomats say there is EC agreement on recognition apart from France. Greece believes an independently recognised Macedonia could make territorial claims on Greece.

## Swiss vote at last for VAT

Zurich: The Swiss voted yesterday in favour of a government plan to switch to value-added tax (VAT) after rejecting such a step in three previous referendums.

Final results from the 26 cantons and half-cantons showed 1,339,757 voted in favour and 669,909 against introducing a universal VAT on goods and services to replace a more selective turnover tax levied only on goods. A 57.8 per cent majority was also in favour of setting the VAT rate at 6.5 per cent. The government had argued that VAT was needed to help curb a soaring federal budget deficit.

Voters also decided against a ban on alcohol and tobacco advertising, proposed by health experts but opposed by the government. (Reuters)

## Protest stopped

Moscow: Police carrying riot shields gently broke up a protest against President Yeltsin by about 100 mostly elderly pro-communists. About 200 police sealed off the area near Red Square and nudged them into an underground station. (Reuters)

## Ministers quit

Magdeburg: Werner Münch, the Christian Democrat state prime minister of Saxony-Anhalt, said he and his cabinet were resigning for their role in the scandal over high salaries for west German politicians who came to help rebuild the impoverished east. (Reuters)

## Gangster held

Marseilles: Jacques Imbert, known as "Tan Jacky", 63, the reputed godfather of organised crime in Marseilles, who has been arrested, remained in jail on charges of criminal conspiracy in connection with a series of gangland killings. (AP)

## Blood enquiry

Bucharest: Romanian health officials, including Bogdan Marinescu, a former health minister, are demanding an investigation into the sale of untested blood, some of which may be contaminated with HIV, to European countries and the United States.

## Old guard goes marching on in Lenin's own Disneyland

FROM ANNE McELVOY  
IN ULYANOVSK



RUSSIAN ELECTION

After passing the first dozen statues of Lenin and Marx, and the unrepentant hoarding proclaiming the inevitable victory of communism, visitors to Ulyanovsk can be forgiven for believing they have stumbled into some Soviet Disneyland.

Although the Russian elections are only two weeks away, Ulyanovsk's communist totems, eerily quiet streets and dearth of private shops and restaurants are redolent of Brezhnev-era stagnation rather than today's Russia. The town is pervasively proud of its reluctance to change. Capitalism may be conquering the furthest reaches of the

former Soviet empire, but in the birthplace of Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov, better known as Lenin, socialism marches doggedly on.

The town's children are still taken to the classroom in Granarum School Number One to draw educational inspiration from the desk where the then eight-year-old Bolshevik leader penned his first wobbly essays on Russian history. His school certificates and the postcard of Marx he collected as an 11-year-old are carefully preserved.

Here central planning survives and Yuri Goryachov, the regional administrator and a former party boss, continues his rule in the autocratic feudal style of provincial Soviet governors.

The fundamentals of the old

ration system are intact and the administration subsidises basic groceries. Small wonder private investors are wary of setting up shop here: they must pay an extra profit-related tax to fund subsidies and are also "encouraged" to make voluntary contributions to the regional budget. "The old structures are very firm here," said Nina Kiryukina, head of the town's privatisation programme.

Yegor Gaidar, the economics minister, came to town this week as part of his energetic election campaign. He made one attempt to convince local directors in the military-industrial complex to embrace conversion, then scrapped further meetings and left

before noon, apparently convinced that there was not much point in trying to whip up enthusiasm for radical parliamentary candidates.

Today Ulyanovsk's judgments of Lenin are ambivalent. Many townspeople, for instance, would like to restore the old, more elegant name of Simbirsk (mountain of winds). "It is like living in a museum, Lenin ever since I can remember," said a bored young man outside the main street's only cafe, long since closed for "technical reasons".

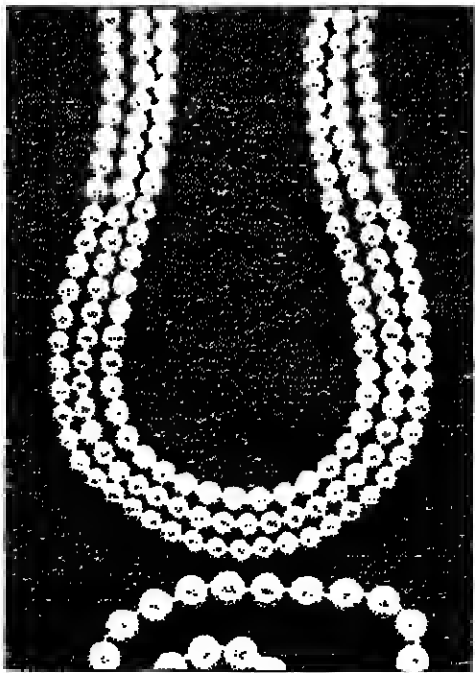
The museum staff in the Ulyanov family's prosperous bourgeois home are horrified at the thought of losing their special status. "Lenin is part of our history," said Tatiana Brilyeva, its director. "People will

always be curious to see how he was brought up." The bookshop still stocks such fairy tales as *Lenin and the Children*, which chronicle his kindness and superhuman deeds.

But not even Ulyanovsk can entirely escape reforms, although Georgi Shupankov, President Yeltsin's special representative, admits it may take time. "It is difficult to change the overwhelming symbolism of communism hereabouts, and changing the mentality that goes with it will take five or ten years," he said. And nobody doubts that Mr Goryachov in his dandified hat will be returned next month with a substantial majority.

The Gorbys show, page 16  
Leading article, page 19

## The Pearls



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فكرنا من الامم



The collapse of the latest colony talks has left in tatters the British dream of an 'emaciated democracy'

## Patten to go ahead alone with plan for Hong Kong reform

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

THE talks over the future of Hong Kong have collapsed. The colony's Executive Council, the de facto cabinet of Chris Patten, the governor, has said that time has run out and Mr Patten intends to begin legislating unilaterally on Thursday.

His priority will be to achieve wider democracy here, with measures such as lower voting age, but Peking has declared that it will abolish any unilateral determination of government as soon as China assumes sovereignty in 1997.

The position has all the hallmarks of a crisis, but it could yet prove to be the latest episode of managed brinkmanship. The 17th negotiating round ended in gloom faces and glum statements in Peking last Saturday and no decision was made on whether

an 18th round might take place. Each side blamed the other. "It will be obvious to all who is responsible for this failure," said Lu Ping, head of China's Hong Kong and Macau Office. "We couldn't even decide what to talk about first," said Christopher Hum, the new Foreign Office leader of the British team.

Mr Hum has flown back to London for consultations. His main colleague in the talks, Michael Sze, Hong Kong's secretary for constitutional affairs, flew to the colony yesterday to brief the Executive Council, which stood by the decision to proceed with unilateral legislation.

Mr Patten summoned the press for "a major statement". In the event he spoke for a minute or two, during which he acknowledged that it was

"another sad and disappointing round" and that "there hasn't been much sign of movement on the other side". He referred to agreement on only one matter - the voting age for the 1994 and 1995 elections.

On Thursday Mr Patten will appear before what was supposed to be a "normal" meeting of the Legislative Council, but now there will be a "stocktaking" meeting of high officials, including some from Whitehall, to review how the negotiations stand.

Any Legislative Council debates on extending democracy in the colony could take place next month. If the two teams agree to an 18th round of talks to discuss "difficult issues", it could take place in January. Peking might merely wait this week to see if the governor "pulls the plug", as he has



Christopher Hum, head of the British team, telling reporters about the failure of the 17th round of talks with China

darkly suggested he might. If such a process starts, Peking may make some concessions. The figure of Mr Panen looms large over the Hong Kong negotiations, all the more remarkable since he has not attended a single round. What is being debated, however,

is his plan for the political future of the colony, not just until the Chinese takeover in 1997 but for the years, perhaps decades, that follow. The historic situation is unique. Six million colonial people are not going to participate in the shift to at least

potential democracy; instead they will be handed back to the largest and most determined authoritarian state afloat in the wreckage of discredited Leninism. Imperial Britain, at its mightiest, wrenched and pried Hong Kong in stages from the

weakening clasp of the last dynasty. Now the situation is reversed: a weak and faltering Britain was forced between 1982 and 1984 to hand its most successful colony back to a triumphant China. In 1984 China was seen as a miracle of Deng Xiaoping reform, mod-

erating the humiliation of the British; now China appears as determined as ever to inhibit liberty while seeking to realise its 19th-century dream of wealth and power.

After 1984 a tacit agreement existed between Britain and China. "One country, two systems" was supposed to mean that Peking would permit Hong Kong to continue to make money and remain apolitical. Tiananmen Square changed that. Suddenly, in 1989, the motherland was still seen in Hong Kong as the violent and repressive place from which many people had fled, and demands began for some sort of protection against Dengism.

In London, handing Hong Kong over to a post-Tiananmen regime suddenly seemed dishonourable, and when Mr Panen took over as governor last year the priorities changed. There were two fundamental purposes: to provide Hong Kong with what Mr Patten called "emaciated democracy" and Britain with an honourable retreat. Or, as Mr Patten has said many times, it would be shameful to leave Hong Kong with the prospect of rigged elections to the Legislative Council, Hong Kong's 60-member parliament which passes its laws and to some degree makes the governor accountable.

## Bolger dismisses fiscal reformer

FROM SIMON HAYDON IN WELLINGTON

RUTH Richardson, the architect of radical economic reform in New Zealand since 1990, was dismissed yesterday as finance minister by Jim Bolger, the prime minister, in a cabinet reshuffle aimed at producing a centrist government. Ms Richardson, a dry monetarist, was replaced by Bill Birch, a former labour minister and Mr Bolger's old friend and confidant.

Financial markets were expected to react badly to the news today. Market sources said the currency would fall and interest rates would rise in a reaction against the removal of the darling of New Zealand's markets. Mr Birch's appointment was seen as a softening of the government's line on spending.



Richardson: darling of New Zealand's markets

Mr Bolger, whose 34-seat majority in parliament was slashed to just one in general elections on November 6, had already indicated his new government would be pragmatic and seek consensus. "We believe the time has come to recognise that the big moves are behind us and a different style of management is called for," he said yesterday.

Mr Bolger said he had offered Ms Richardson a senior role in cabinet but she had declined, preferring to work from the back benches. She deeply regretted Mr Bolger's decision. "While the economic messenger may have been changed, what New Zealanders will be concerned to ensure is that the economic message does not change," she said.

Most observers agreed she had been successful in pulling New Zealand out of a deep recession and into recovery, but voters made it clear in the election that the medicine had been too harsh and the social effects of monetarism were too painful. Mr Birch pledged to maintain fiscal discipline, but he also promised to work to reduce the country's 10 per cent unemployment rate.

The other victims of the reshuffle were Rob Storey, the transport minister, and Graeme Lee, the internal affairs minister, who had indicated he would retire before the next election. (Reuters)

## Hardliners lose ground in India

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

Hindu fundamentalism has suffered a blow in state elections in key areas of the Hindi-speaking northern heartland, a sign that Indian politics is returning to its secular roots five years after religious extremists began their phenomenal political advance.

The hardline Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) counted its losses as results came in yesterday, a year after Hindu fanatics tore down an ancient mosque in the holy city of Ayodhya and sent a wave of anti-Muslim sentiment spilling through much of northern India.

The party's *Hindutva* (Hindu-ness) message was rejected because of fears of further religious violence. As a result the BJP will no longer find it so easy to instigate the Hindu-Muslim riots that helped to propel it to prominence.

The latest elections were peaceful, reflecting the mood of the electorate and forcing the party to tone down its fiery rhetoric and to turn to the main preoccupations of the poor: prices and unemployment.

Although still a force to be reckoned with, the BJP no longer has a realistic hope of forming the next federal government. It is the pariah of Indian politics; no other party would join it in an alliance or coalition. The governing Congress Party,

floundering without the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty to guide it, nevertheless made a modest comeback in the elections, which involved 30 per cent of the Indian electorate.

Traditional political patterns in the north have been overturned, most notably in the key state of Uttar Pradesh. The low-caste Yadav community joined forces with the hitherto politically mute Dalits (formerly known as untouchables) to create a new power centre. This is a setback for the Jats, a high-caste farming community that for decades has wielded power abusively over large areas of Uttar Pradesh and other states. Its support has been crucial to the BJP's advance.

The Congress Party captured the mountain state of Himachal Pradesh, a small but gratifying political prize that gives it a toehold once more in the Hindi belt. It was crushed in Uttar Pradesh, as it knew it would be, confirming that, after more than a century of political dominance, it may never again be able to form a central government except as part of a coalition.

□ **Srinagar:** Indian troops have withdrawn from Sopore after swooping on the Kashmir valley town in an operation against separatist militants. (Reuters)

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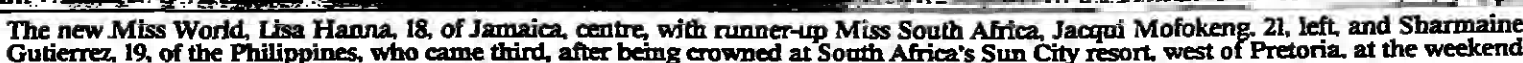
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**FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM**

Over the weekend the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, which lost two important guerrilla leaders in shoot-outs with Israeli security forces last week, vowed that it would continue its campaign against Israel and the peace process.



FROM CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN IN LOS ANGELES

Hollywood will be watching her closely as she flutters her lashes and speaks in her own defence today. Will she

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN CAIRO

Recent visitors to Tripoli have been struck by the economic turmoil resulting from the colonel's brand of socialism and by the readiness of Libyans to denounce him publicly. In October, he survived the most serious attempted coup of his 24 years in power and ordered the jannings of the BBC Arabic service which broadcast news of it.

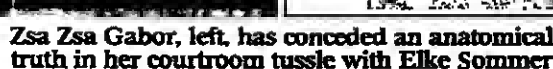
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## San Juan

**Panama City:** The salsa singer and actor Ruben Blades was expected to announce his candidature for next year's

Enquiries, telephone 081 873 4773.



**Rowland interview, page 44**



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TOKYU



Secret society dedicated to Afrikaner domination of South Africa renounces politics

# Broederbond opens its membership to all races

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE Afrikaner Broederbond, the secretive males-only organisation that has played a key role in shaping the South African government's racial policies, has changed its name and decided to admit people of all races and women.

It will be known as the Afrikaansbond and will be less secretive, with some meetings open to the public.

Most members of the existing cabinet, including President de Klerk, belong to it but in recent years its influence has declined and it has become increasingly anachronistic. The decision to change its name was taken at a special meeting on Saturday.

Professor Johan Heyns, the vice-chairman, said that whereas the Broederbond had been involved in politics the Afrikaansbond would not. "We will be working like other cultural organisations but we will be completely beyond politics." Its aim would be to organise all Afrikaners around language. The implication is that the organisation will open its doors to Afrikaans-speaking Coloureds.

The Broederbond was dedicated to Afrikaner domination and rose to its greatest influence in the heyday of apartheid following the election of the National Party to government in 1948. It had a key role in drawing up the Verwoerdian policy of creating the homelands, but by the late 1970s its authority was beginning to wane.

President Botha spurned it, preferring the advice of his military security, and in 1983, Professor Carel Boshoff, the late Hendrik Verwoerd's son-in-law, who advocated the separation of Coloureds from whites, was ousted as chairman by Professor Jan Pieter de Lange, of the Rand Afrikaans University.

Professor de Lange was one of the authors of a document, circulated among Broederbond members in 1980, pressing for power-sharing and an end to white-only rule.

The Afrikaansbond will be run by a management team, which will include Dr Gerrit Viljoen, the former minister of constitutional development, who played a leading role in setting up the multi-party democracy talks.

In Umtali, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party leadership met yesterday to weigh the merits of boycotting or contesting the first all-race election. Mangosuthu Buthezi, the leader, told a rally on Saturday that he would not lead his party "like lambs to the slaughter... we want KwaZulu/Natal to rule over itself."

Earlier, the Johannesburg area wing of Inkatha held a joint march with uniformed members of the Afrikaner Resistance Movement in Vereeniging that culminated in the signing of a non-aggression pact.



Making strange bedfellows, supporters of the white-supremacist Afrikaner Resistance Movement joined conservative Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party members in a weekend march through Vereeniging, near Johannesburg, before their leaders signed a non-aggression pact

## Teenage warriors of Natal fight bitter campaign to win power in the streets

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN ESTCOURT, NATAL

Conflict between the ANC and Inkatha in a country town has spread even to the cemeteries. It has more to do with personal vendettas than any ideological differences

"THEY killed our comrade two days ago. He was still in school. We know the people who did this. They will not live beyond the weekend."

The youth who made this speech to me was an African National Congress warrior aged 19 in the little Natal town of Estcourt. Although the ANC is allied to the South African Communist Party, he was talking about a communist group that is fighting the ANC in Estcourt. The fight appears entirely without ideological significance. It would be truer to say that, in the breakdown of order occasioned by the war between the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party in Estcourt, party labels are now merely badges for contending factions.

Estcourt, a town of perhaps 15,000 people, with another 15,000 or so blacks in its township of Wembezi, is

known mainly for sausages. Today it is more Dodge City.

Wembezi has been devastated by the fighting between Inkatha and the ANC. In the centre stands the burnt-out ruins of a supermarket once owned by Stanley Gumbi, an MP in the KwaZulu "homeland" who has now fled to Johannesburg. Nearby are rows of row of burnt-out houses and the pillaged Presbyterian church and manse.

Wembezi's middle-class quarter is inhabited in the main by ANC members, while the remaining three-quarters is Inkatha, although both sides say that they have many secret supporters who live in the other's area.

The war between Inkatha and the ANC is visible in the commercial centre of Estcourt itself. The ANC has controlled the main shopping area, where knots of young ANC fighters stand on street corners, while Inkatha controls most of the rest of the town. White and Asian shoppers move to and fro as if oblivious, but blacks keep rigidly to the areas where they feel safe.

The smaller Indian shops, the bus station, taxi rank, several of the banks and garages and the post office are all "Inkatha" (although a separate "ANC" taxi stop has been set up). Local politicians — Inkatha's Spitzie Dlamini, and the ANC's Teaspoon

Mkhize and Macduff Mbatia — sound like characters out of a play, but the war is in deadly earnest. Activists on both sides are heavily armed, scores have died, and known multiple murderers walk the streets, out on apparently endless bail.

Last month Duke Mbonkwa, one of Inkatha's most notorious killers, was murdered and his heart and one lung were torn out for *muri* (magic), for it is widely believed that one may acquire a dead man's strength with his vital organs.

Even the cemeteries are political. The Wembezi cemetery is Inkatha; ANC militants buried there have had their coffins exhumed and dumped on the main road, a particularly sacrilegious act in Zulu eyes. So the young ANC militant murdered by communists had to be taken instead to the Estcourt cemetery where, not surprisingly, communist militants were

waiting with guns to prohibit its use as well.

Although the balance of forces is in the ANC's favour in most of South Africa, in Estcourt the ANC is under desperate pressure. Inkatha has launched wave after wave of attacks on its opponents. Mr Mkhize's house is a virtual armed fort and he hardly dares to go into Estcourt at all.

Both Mr Mkhize and Mr Dlamini — his Inkatha counterpart and a fellow headmaster — profess themselves keen to run in an election, but it is hard to see how a meaningful electoral contest can be held here. Mr Dlamini is quite ready to fight a war if that is what Mangosuthu Buthezi, the Inkatha leader, should want. "I am a Zulu, I will follow my leader," he says.

Mr Mkhize, whose two-year-old daughter was shot dead in his arms, nurses similar feelings. The war within the election goes on.



Viljoen will help to run the new organisation

NEWS IN BRIEF

### Aidid puts condition on going to conference

Mogadishu: A spokesman for General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord, said he would not attend the United Nations-sponsored three-day humanitarian conference on Somalia in Addis Ababa today unless Somali National Alliance supporters detained by the UN were freed.

General Aidid will send a five-member delegation led by his ally Ahmed Omar Jees to ask President Meles of Ethiopia to mediate in the prisoner conflict. The UN is holding eight suspected militiamen loyal to General Aidid, including Osman Ato, his chief financier. A senior UN official said last week that some of those in custody might be charged. (AFP)

### Escobar ban

Frankfurt: The family of Pablo Escobar, the fugitive Colombian drug baron, flew to Frankfurt but officials said they were not welcome. Bogotá reports had said the family's departure was part of a deal that included Escobar's surrender. (Reuters)

### Close vote

Miami: Hondurans voted in presidential elections after polls showed Carlos Reina, of the Liberal Party, narrowly ahead of Oswaldo Ramos Soto of the ruling National party. Economic hardship as a result of market reforms was expected to favour the opposition.

### Top brass go

Lagos: Seventeen Nigerian officers, most brigadier generals loyal to Ibrahim Babangida, the former leader, were forced to retire as General Sani Abacha, the military ruler, installed a cabinet of politicians opposed to army rule. (Reuters)

### Space repair

Washington: Seven *Endeavour* astronauts will try to repair the Hubble space telescope, which has a faulty mirror, after NASA launches an 11-day space shuttle mission on Wednesday.

BEST TRAVEL NEWS OF THE YEAR — 20 PER CENT OFF HOLIDAYS WORLDWIDE, EXCLUSIVE TO TIMES READERS

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Over the next two weeks, *The Times* will feature holidays offered by the participating tour operators in this holiday offer. For full details, simply phone the Brochure Hotline or send a written request to *The Times* Brochure Service (see below). You may request as many free brochures as you wish. Getting your discount is so simple: Today and each day until Saturday, December 11, a special token will appear in *The Times* — 21 tokens in total. You need collect only ten tokens to qualify for your 20 per cent discount. The discount applies to any number of people booking on any one tour operator's booking form. If you choose to collect 20 tokens, you can use the additional ten on a second holiday.

● You can take your holiday(s) at any time from the beginning of January 1994 to the end of December 1994, and you can choose any number of holidays, providing you have collected ten tokens per holiday.

● The 20 per cent discount will apply to any holiday featured with no restriction on price.

● When you have chosen your holiday, complete the relevant tour operator's booking form and send it with the required deposit and ten *Times* tokens to: *The Times* Travel Office, Cox & Kings Travel, St James Court, Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF. Bookings must be received by February 20, 1994.

● The offer is subject to the terms and conditions published in *The Times* on November 18.

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Please allow 14 days for delivery of your brochure



Colourful market stalls: almost everywhere you go

## Exploring South America

From Buenos Aires to Santiago, across the pampas and through the Andes

In the early morning, Buenos Aires smells of coffee and expensive handbags. Outside the fabulously exclusive Plaza Hotel, high up on the Plaza San Martín, there's a whiff of river rising up from the great Rio Plata.

It's a city of bars and squares and dark antique shops, ancient vines and flaking paintwork. The Italian influence is strong, matched only by the palpable Englishness — Versace crossed with Turnbull and Asser. You dine late, and tango until dawn in tiny bars. The uninhabited must visit the Casa Blanca Club in the old San Telmo district where the greatest tango dancers regularly appear.

Beyond the city you come to the pampas — mile upon mile of the flat Argentine heartland. The gauchos, nut-brown and gold-toothed, laugh at tourists who they tempt onto the backs of polo ponies which have the equine equivalent of power-steering, and are highly unsuitable for a gentle ride into the countryside.

Dress in layers when you go to South America. Strip off in the plane on the way north to the Iguassu Falls on the borders of Argentina and Brazil. Here in the sub-tropics, are the greatest waterfalls in the world with

275 cataracts spread over two miles. Wooden walkways lead to an observation platform looking over the terrible place known as the Devil's Throat where the roaring waters converge.

In northern Chile, the Lauca National Park takes you 15,000 feet up into the Altiplano where altitude sickness strikes at random, rendering you breathless, weak and stupid. But it's worth it to see the technicolour turquoise of Lake Chungara, the highest in the world, which lies beneath the snow-capped twin peaks of the Payachatas volcanoes. Here are pink flamingos, vicuñas, and long-eared rabbits called viscachas. It is so remote that priests visit the 17th-century church just once a year.

You drive downhill with the altitude sickness lifting like a bad memory. Arica is both seaside town and desert outpost. There is no rain at all. Eiffel

(of Tower fame) made his mark here with a curious yellow iron cathedral. The Pan American highway takes you southward, through the Atacama desert — the driest in the world, though once it was ocean. The hallucinatory play of colour and light, mirage and blurring whirlwind makes you unable to tear yourself away from the windows of the bus. There are neither scorpions nor spiders but the hand of man is apparent in the giant petroglyphs scraped out of the desert hills. We stop at the ghost town of Humboldt, named after a British chemist and abandoned in the 1960s when the nitrate industry failed. There is a dead dog here. You suspect there always is. We are instructed our guide when we reached Santiago — and ended up in a glitzy disco with Santiago's jeunesse dorée. There is nothing folkloric here in this polluted yet jazzy city but there is a stomach-churning covered market and another of old Eiffel's efforts, the city railway station. So don't look for folksy souvenirs; stick to the lapis lazuli, the superb wines, and pass on the stuffed armadillos.

JENNIFER SELWAY

### TODAY'S FEATURED OPERATOR: COX & KINGS

THE following tours are operated by Cox & Kings and are featured in their 1994 'Latin America' brochure. Cox & Kings has catered to the varied needs of the traveller for over two centuries and they still maintain a tradition of personal service, offering arrangements of the highest calibre to the traveller. While the brochure must be referred to for full details of price inclusions on tours, most include five or four star hotels, scheduled flights, transfers and sightseeing, breakfast and the services of an escort.

JUNGLES AND MARKETS: Our 12-day journey in Central America includes visits to the lost Mayan city of Tikal, Lake Atitlan, Chichicastenango market, Irazu volcano and the Panama Canal. Departs 17 February, 9 June, 15 September, 10 November 1994. £1676 (down from £2095). Save £419

FROM REEF TO RAIN-FOREST: A 15-day journey through Belize, revealing its history and culture. Discover ancient Mayan cities, enjoy San Ignacio and the Mountain Pine Ridge and relax on the white sandy beaches of Ambergris Caye. Departs 24 February, 19 May, 20 October, 1 December 1994. £1756 (down from £2195). Save £439

THE LOST WORLD: A 14-day journey through Venezuela, taking an overflight of the Angel Falls and visiting Merida in the Andes mountains, the capital of Caracas and the palm-fringed beaches of Margarita Island. Departs 13 March, 15 May, 2 October, 20 November 1994. £1472 (down from £1840). Save £368

CONQUISTADORES, INCAS AND ISLANDS: A 17-day tour of Peru and the Galapagos Islands. Visit the colonial city of Lima, the Inca capital of Cuzco and the lost city of Machu Picchu, before taking a 5-day cruise of the Galapagos Islands. Departs 18 March, 3 June, 7 October, 18 November 1994. £2396 (down from £2995). Save £599

PAMPAS TO PATAGONIA: A 14-day journey from Buenos Aires, the 'pampas', home to the gaucho cowboys, Peninsula Valdés, the island of Tierra del Fuego and Lago Argentino with its glaciers and fjords. Departs 26 February, 19 March, 15 October, 12 November 1994. £2296 (down from £2995). Save £699

ATACAMA, ANDES AND BEYOND: A 14-day exploration of Chile, travelling from Santiago to the Atacama desert, the Lauca National Park set high in the Andes and to the hilly, green lake district of southern Chile and Chiloe Island. Departs 10 March, 14 April, 20 October, 17 November 1994. £1988 (down from £2483). Save £495

EMERALD LAKES OF THE ANDES: A 17-day journey through the Argentinian and Chilean Andes. En route, visit Buenos Aires, the Iguassu Falls, Península Valdés, Bariloche, Puerto Montt and Santiago. Departs 7 February, 28 February 1994, £2220 (down from £2775). Save £555

THE ANDES TO THE ANGEL FALLS: A 15-day journey combining the ancient wonders of Peru with the Angel Falls in Venezuela. Beginning in Lima, we visit the Inca capital of Cuzco, the 'lost city' of Machu Picchu and Lake Titicaca. Departs 8 February, 22 March, 26 April, 11 October 1994. £2044 (down from £2551). Save £511

Q: How do I book my holiday?  
A: All communication and booking forms must be sent to *The Times* Travel Office, Cox & Kings, St James Court, 45 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AF.

Q: How do I pay for my holiday(s)?  
A: You must pay the relevant tour operator's deposit at the time of booking with their signed booking form. You must pay the balance due for your holiday(s) 10 weeks prior to departure. Cox & Kings will forward the relevant tour operator's invoice to you within three weeks of receiving your booking form, deposit and tokens.

Q: Is it possible to book my holiday(s) before I collect all ten tokens?  
A: You must collect all ten tokens and fill in the relevant operator's booking form with the deposit. Only then will your holiday(s) be confirmed.

Q: What happens if the holiday(s) of my choice is sold out?  
A: Cox & Kings will inform you as soon as this happens and you will have to select an alternative date or destination.

Q: When can I book the holiday(s)?  
A: Bookings can be made when you have your ten tokens and relevant booking form. You must book your holiday(s) by February 20, 1994.

Q: To what does the discount apply?  
A: It applies to the specific departure date and tour offered by the operator. Any number of people booking together on one booking form, together with ten tokens attached, can take part in the offer. It excludes any other supplements, including single room supplements, any other holiday, insurance, car hire (except where car hire is part of the specific tour offered by the operator), special

excursions, amendments, surcharges, visas or cancellation charges.

Q: What happens if I miss or lose a token?  
A: We will be publishing a total of 21 tokens and backdated copies will be accepted (though photocopies will not be accepted). So you should be able to catch up.

Q: Do I have to take any specific insurance?  
A: No, you may arrange your own insurance, but you must ensure that you are fully covered for the holiday booked and forward details of the policy arranged when mailing your booking form.

Q: Are the operators bonded?  
A: Yes, all the operators featured in this offer are bonded and have complied with the financial bonding requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority or the Passenger Shipping Association. This means that you will be repatriated/refunded in the unlikely event of the operators' insolvency.

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# The Gorby show rolls on



Mikhail Gorbachev and his friend Baroness Thatcher are the world's most famous out-of-work political superstars.

Anne McElvoy met the former Soviet leader on the eve of another visit to Britain

The compilers of the latest edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, published this month, have paid Mikhail Gorbachev a flattering if belated compliment by including the compound noun "Gorbymania" — drily dissected as "excessive enthusiasm for the person or policies of Mikhail Gorbachev" — in their list of neologisms expected to enjoy more than fleeting usage.

Strange timing, given that there isn't a lot of Gorbymania about these days, particularly in Russia. But perhaps the OED's logic is correct after all in so far as one of the most memorable things about the last leader of the Soviet Union was his extraordinary ability to popularise himself among his country's traditional enemies: to induce kittenish glances from Mrs Thatcher and maley joviality from Mr Reagan, despite running an "evil empire" at the same time.

Germans, East and West were reduced to a state of demented admiration as soon as he set foot in East Berlin or Bonn.

Broadly scorned or at best ignored at home these days, the Gorby road-show trundles on abroad and next week it is our turn to see how the leader of a destroyed super-power copes with the after-life. He is lecturing in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Oxford, scooping up the unimpeachable honorary degree in Bristol, chewing the fat with Baroness Thatcher, John Major and lords Howe and Healey and being received at Buckingham Palace.

It all looks rather like a state visit and while you can't blame Mikhail Sergeyevich for milking the mania while it lasts, you do rather wonder why the West still thinks that he has much of interest to say. But the invitations continue to flood in — this year he has been to America once, to Italy twice and he will stop off in Germany for a third time to meet his old friend Hans-Dietrich Genscher and take a sentimental journey to the East.

In his Moscow lair at the Gorbachev Foundation, he is still surrounded by the same host of faithful retainers who served him in more powerful days. The court still functions even when the king has been deposed. The last two years have aged him — his hair is grey-white now and there are deep lines of stress etched around his mouth, but he remains a good looking man, trim and immaculately dressed in a dark-red lambswool jumper, carefully toned with a subdued Western suit. The famous brown eyes are truly fascinating, dancing sometimes with intelligence, sometimes in calculated flirtation and occasionally lit by sparkle of malice.

But, oh, how the man talks. A torrent of circumlocution pours forth no matter how direct the question — a vestige of his days addressing provincial communist committees, no doubt. He has an irritating habit of expressing himself in the third person: "Gorb-

achev thinks that ... and of ponderously punctuating his own evasions: "I am approaching the point where I shall talk about your question ..."

During his successor Boris Yeltsin's violent clash with parliament in October, he hinted that he might return to political office and did not disabuse questioners of the notion that he may be available for the Russian presidency "if my countrymen call on me to stabilise the situation". The only call, however, was a pro-forma wimper rather than a rousing chorus. His outrage at the use of tanks against parliament is genuine and deeply felt. "Before that, I had difference, a critical relationship with him. But that moment was the end for me. What he did was wrong and dangerous: a wild gamble with the future of the country."

Today, he is linked with the centrist Civic Union, an umbrella group of industrial leaders who favour a more gradual and structured approach to reform. "I have lots of meetings with the centrist forces but I have convinced them that it is better for me to stay about the political fray." A minute later, he does not seem to have convinced himself. "But of course, if there was a large pool of people who wanted me back, I know my duty."

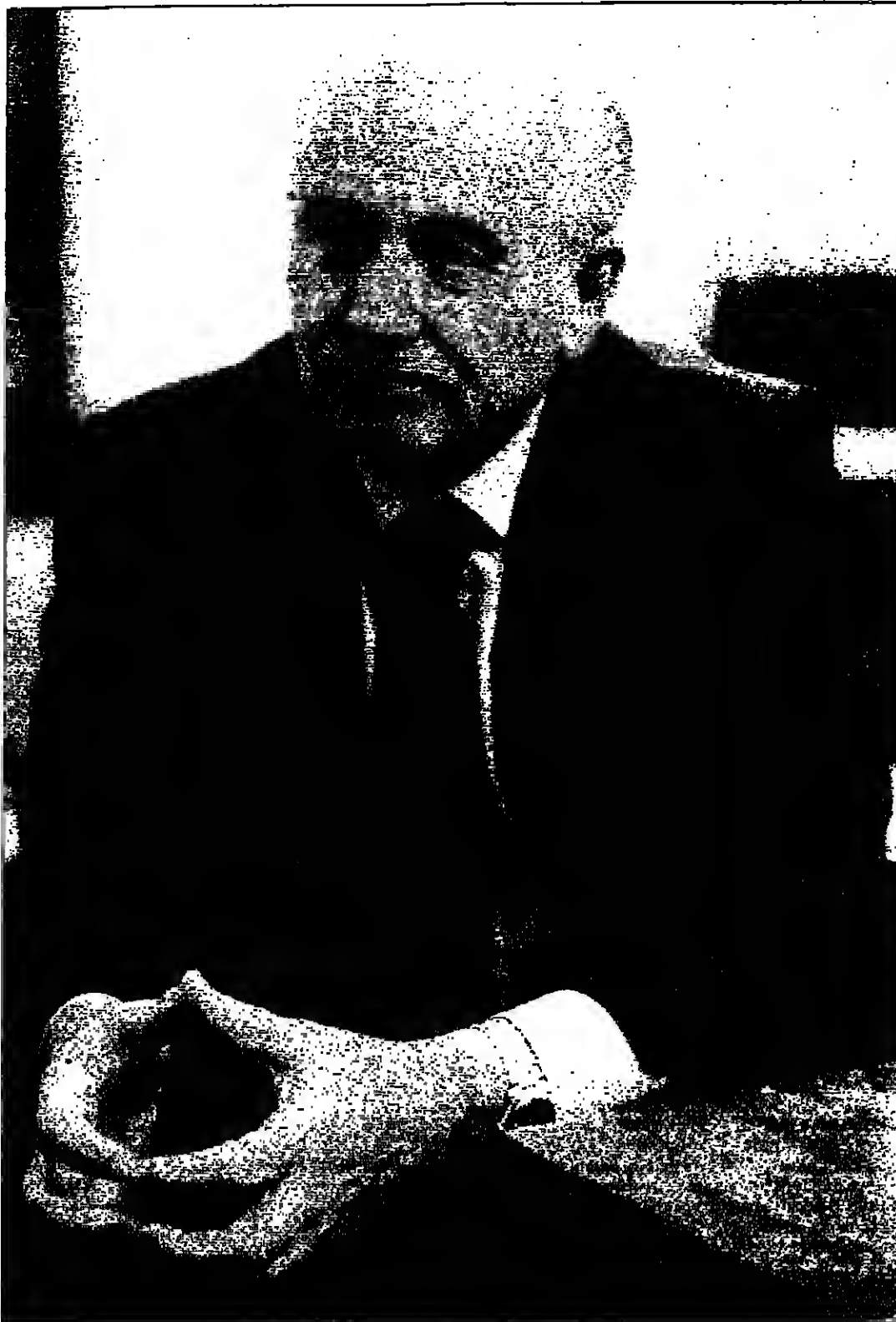
The institute, a set of Stalinist baroque buildings on the Leningradsky Prospekt, is his pride and joy, home to his plethora of worthy causes and the administrative machinery behind the global roadshow. He was particularly annoyed when Mr Yeltsin, in a vengeful fit after a number of outspoken attacks from his predecessor, took over part of the building for the finance ministry, squashing the Gorby team into a few cluttered rooms.

To mention the word "Yeltsin" is to unleash boundless obloquy. He is eaten-up by hatred of the man whom he feels exploited the headline coup of August 1991 to wrest power for himself and Russia at the expense of Gorbachev and the Soviet Union. The contempt is mutual.

"Radical reform has failed. The Commonwealth of Independent States has failed," he raps. "Russia has culturally rejected shock therapy. The cavalier tactics of the present are failing us day by day. People don't want to be reliant on mercy from above, like from a tsar."

Does he think that Boris Yeltsin is behaving like a tsar? Gorbachev's eyes flash as he quickly calculates whether he wants to go on the record with such a comment but in the end he can't resist it. "Yeltsin has more powers than any tsar," he says.

Is there anything at all that he admires about his successor? "He is illogical and ill-organised, that is a serious flaw in policy making," he continues. Er, fine, Mr Gorbachev, but we wanted to know if you had anything nice to say. "That's the



Gorbachev: firmly pigeonholed by Britain into a member of the melancholy club of yesterday's men

best I can do by him," he says, thoroughly enjoying himself.

But it must have been deeply painful for him to see the West support Yeltsin. He clearly feels that the international community is short-sighted. "Western leaders could take at least one piece of advice from Karl Marx, who said: 'Wipe the dust from the surface and see what is underneath'. They want a guarantee of reform and have attached themselves to him as a symbol of it, but they may still be disappointed in the outcome."

With the Thatchers waiting to embrace him in London and Neil Kinnock about to land in Moscow, Mr Gorbachev is being firmly pigeonholed by Britain into a member of the melancholy club of yesterday's men and women. He does not seem to mind. "Margaret Thatcher and I had a rapport because we were both politicians of strong conviction. I told her at the very beginning that I respected her political and ideological choices and I expected her to do the same. In the end it was very like a friendship. Raisa and I met her family and things were very cordial. We were both fighting for reforms. But ultimately she failed in some goals such as privatising the health service. You have to know how far you can push things

in one go. These days we get along because we are in the same boat: out of office, but not out of politics and occasionally both of us annoy the present incumbent. That's democracy."

Mikhail Gorbachev can be a very irritating man indeed, opinionated, didactic and self-important. But he has the politician's greatest gift of being a natural enthusiast. Warned to a theme, he leans forward and fixes you with those of brown eyes as if you were the one person in the world he wanted to confide in. "Look," he says, a little shame-faced after one particularly incoherent and anti-Yeltsin outburst, "I am an emotional person."

He can also be surprisingly open about his troubles at the very points you might expect him to clamp up. The Battle for Gorby's Murn broke out in summer when his elderly mother handed over ownership of the house Gorbachev had built her in their home town of Stavropol to a rock singer who claimed to be his illegitimate son. Worse still, younger brother Aleksander, who was rumoured to need the money to pay off drinking debts, colluded in the deal. "It was very upsetting because this was a house I had built

together with my father. It meant something to me," he says. "My mother is with us in Moscow now. She realises she was duped and wants her home back. It will all have to be settled in court. I did exchange some harsh words with my mother and brother — but we'll get over it. Families do."

His wife, Raisa, who has suffered ill-health, allegedly brought on by the stress of the August coup and the opprobrium heaped on her husband, will accompany him to Britain. The Gorbachevs remain a devoted couple. "Raisa has taken what happened much more to heart than I," he says. "She cannot stand the invidious spread about me by my enemies and the aspersions they cast. I try to tell her not to worry about what people say: that it is only the game of politics. But women are different. They feel things more keenly."

Like any good Russian man, Mikhail Gorbachev claims that feeling hurt, insecure, and under-appreciated is the provenance of a woman and that his job is to console her. Like a good Russian wife, Raisa lets him go on saying so in order to get it all off his own chest. And once again, with barely disguised relief, they prepare to board an aircraft to a more grateful world elsewhere.

## High camp Christmas

Julian, Quentin and the rest of the boys deserve some goodwill, too

I have been trying all weekend to work myself up into a moral panic about Quentin Crisp, but it is no good. When he broadcasts his "Queen's message" on Christmas day, I shall be surprisingly able to contain my virtuous outrage.

Mind you, I won't be watching: with two grannies at the table, fighting drunk on sherry and hurling ancient grudges across the crackers, it would be a brave zapper indeed who replaced H.M. Queen with the bouffant Mr Crisp at the crucial hour of 5pm.

But there could be a bit of surreptitious videotaping and a later session over the turkey carcass: who knows, the grannies might by then be sufficiently awash in goodwill to join us in raising a glass to the former naked civil servant who has given the world much gaiety — in the old and not unchristianly sense of the word.

Nor can I get too fretful about the other aspect of Channel 4's "Camp Christmas" in which Julian Clary, Martina Navratilova and other orientationally different persons will, we are promised, "send up the Andy Williams/Perry Como style of log cabin programmes popular in the 1950s and 1960s". Blasphemy is blasphemy, and Perry Como

ground, overwhelmed by my own daring. After all, this is not some hip alternative person talking. I belong to exactly that complacent heterosexual society which Channel 4 longs to shock: a faithful, Christian, middle-brow wife with two children, an Aga in the kitchen and a cat called Tibby.

Godless Hampstead intellectuals wouldn't even look at me: I go to Christingle. I hold an annual charity exhibition of my collection of world cribs, with candlelight and medieval music, for heaven's sake. I was once (I have never admitted this publicly before) co-recipient with John Timpson of a Mary Whitehouse award for good clean broadcasting. I am a square.

I abhor violent, promiscuous and loveless sex, and every form of unkindness in human relationships. This is Middle England talking: I expect a deputation any minute begging me to succeed Mrs Whitehouse.

Yet I more than tolerate gay programmes and camp humour — within the limits of reasonable decorum. I value them. Camp, in the style of Crisp and Clary, Kenneth Williams, Coward and Beaton, of drag queens and those astonishing American men who sing soprano operatic arias in pierce-

ing falsetto, has been one of the shaping forces of 20th century culture. Not a brutal force either: a sharp, skittish, self-mocking obnoxious of *Ooh-you-are-awful*, and *Get her, ducky!*

Camp — which appears to be at the core of this Channel 4 mischief — is not violent or subversive: it represents the triumph of individual humanity and humour over alienation, confusion, loneliness and derision. It has a capacity, which the wider society should envy, to look drily sideways at the absurdity of sexual attraction. We should accept it as part of the family.

My children, pretty innocent so far, laugh themselves sick with (not at) Jules and Sandy of *Round the Horne* and Mr Humphries in *Are you being Served?*. I ask them why, and they say "Because it isn't quite a man or a woman, and it makes fun of everybody". Some of the dourer gay rights activists, I know, will damn me, and camp, as patronising: merry Christmas to them, too.

Among the crib collection is a modern one set in cardboard city: Mary is in jeans and Joseph a punk, the shepherds and kings are commuters and tramps. Every year I add new, unpopular, figure to join them round the manger. There is an ancient judge, both Thatchers, Robert Maxwell, a worried-looking Yeltsin, a shifty financier and a paparazzi.

I am now going to ask the modeller to get Quentin Crisp into the crib, quick, with blue bouffant hair and possibly a handbag. God bless us, every one.



LIBBY PURVES

Called the Queen of Impatience, she is America's toughest woman boss. Kate Muir reports

## From bras to riches



Wachner: men respect you if you own a plane

SOBERLY suited gentlemen in a dozen boardrooms quake at the sound of her high heels clacking across the floor. She makes her executives write down her dictates in spiral notebooks with "Do it now!" printed on the covers. *Fortune* magazine has just voted her the toughest woman boss in America. She is described as "a living corporate trinity" having made herself chairman, president and chief executive officer of her company. No, this is not the heroine of a Judith Krantz blockbuster, but Linda J. Wachner, head of Warnaco, a global clothing company which she acquired seven years ago in — what else? — a hostile takeover bid.

Now at the peak of her powers, Ms Wachner is said to be keen to ascend high society, just as she has the business community. She is all over the gossip columns, holding dances at her Gatsbyesque Hamptons house, rubbing shoulders with designer Oscar de la Renta, and keeping the seats of her private Gulfstream jet warm with the likes of publisher Mort Zuckerman, and superagent Mort Jandlow. Snapped by the party paparazzi, Ms Wachner locks eyes with the camera and grins.

New York's doyenne of gossip, Liz Smith of *Newsday*, first met Ms Wachner when she flew to Egypt on her plane with a group of socialites. Although Ms Wachner was fairly quiet, the men were

had the highest regard for her, and fawned suitably. "I finally figured it out," Ms Smith told *W* magazine. "The only way for a woman to earn that kind of respect is to own her own plane."

Ms Wachner, who is 46, earned that plane and a salary of \$3 million a year by selling underwear, or "intimates" as the Americans prefer to put it. Warnaco includes Warner bras, Speedo, Fruit of the Loom and many other brand names. It has licenses to make products for Ralph Lauren and Christian Dior. The nation's highest-paid corporate woman still runs two department stores and fixes up her company's bra displays.

Known in the business world as "the Queen of Impatience", Ms Wachner admits to having a temper. But she gets flak for behaviour that might well go unremarked in a man. She recently aired her phi-

group of clothing executives whose sales figures were not performing as well as might be expected. "Eunuchs," she roared. "How can your wives stand you? You've got nothing between your legs."

Her own husband died ten years ago, at the age of 71, after which she threw herself into her work night and day. It is only in the last few years, with her position secure and the company's stock growing that Ms Wachner has started socialising with a vengeance.

She is now much sought after for dinner parties, and has joined the benevolent Manhattan ladies' charity party circuit, which allows fun and excess without the guilt. She has just joined the board of the Sloan Kettering hospital, which reads like *Who's Who*, and of Carnegie Hall.

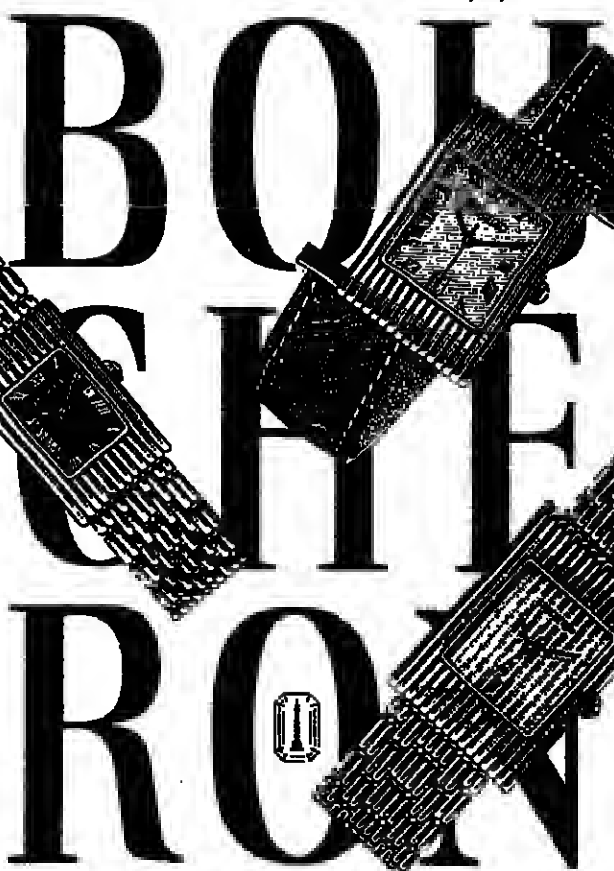
Because she had a spinal problem as a child, Ms Wachner says she "skis remedially", and apparently this

house in the beautiful people's resort of Aspen in Colorado. It complements her summer mansion at Southampton on Long Island. Last summer, Ms Wachner had the entire house redesigned at much expense, and was in the habit of making unexpected visits by helicopter. Naturally, the refurbishment was completed in record time.

WHEN asked how she reached the top, she answers "slowly". She grew up in the solid New York borough of Queens, and began her career as a clothes buyer for department stores after leaving Buffalo University in 1966. She joined Warnaco in the mid-1970s as advertising director, and later defected to the cosmetics company, Max Factor, where she became chief executive worldwide. But a salaried job was not enough. Ms Wachner wanted to own Max Factor, but her bid was rebuffed, as was another for Revlon. With Warnaco, however, she won, after a long and bitter battle. Her holdings are now worth \$72 million.

In many ways, Ms Wachner is much admired for having succeeded on her own, in what is still a corporate world hostile to women. As she once said to a new company president: "Have you fired anyone yet?" He answered no. "Well," she said, "you'd better start firing people so they'll understand you're serious."

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# Simply as plain as your face

Two British men are cornering the market in the 'no make-up' make-up that fashion designers love. But will anyone other than model waifs wear it? Tina Gaudoin reports

Polly Mellen is proclaiming her appreciation of Calvin Klein's autumn fashion show in characteristically New York fashion vernacular: "Calvin, Calvin, I did I did!" But the fashion director of *Allure* magazine is talking not only of the clothes, but also of the hair and make-up. ("There was nothing on those faces. Nothing!" reported the New York fashion bible *Women's Wear Daily* the next day.)

Unlike the designer himself (who was enveloped in a sea of fashion's most facile), the show's hair and make-up artists, Dick Page and Guido Palau, both bashful Brits, were keeping their distance.

Lauren Hutton, famed not just for being a model but for being a model at 50, approached them, the light of the converted shining in her eyes: "You guys were great! Thank you, thank you, thank you!" Other models tripped over themselves and their overly large Prada tote bags to echo her sentiments.

In a world where make-up artists and hairstylists are becoming as famous as the faces they work on, it's safe to describe Page and Palau, and their work (which has appeared in *Vogue*, *The Face* and *Harpers Bazaar*), as understated.

You would be hard-pressed to call Page's faces "made up" — healthy would be a better description. His style includes barely any foundation, eye pencils to outline the eyes, lipstick rubbed across the bridge of the nose and onto the cheeks for a sunkissed effect and very natural coloured lips. Palau takes the view that most people's hair is not immaculately groomed, and he aims to keep it that way.

Designers such as Liza Bruce and Helmut Lang, as well as Klein, were impressed by Page's artfully contrived "no make-up, make-up", together with Palau's unkempt locks "look", seen atop the shoulders of the new waif models. But can this unaffected approach work on those beyond their teens? You had to look only at the older models such as Hutton and Patti Hansen, who Klein used at last season's shows, to be convinced.

Page, who's own hair colour runs the gamut from aubergine to peroxide blond, had an unorthodox training. In his teens, he put his youthful fixation on hold and began his working life in an abattoir. The realisation that he would rather be making up heads than deep freezing them was almost instantaneous. He headed for London in 1987 but had little success until, in 1990, he was introduced to then up-and-coming (now super-hip) photographers Corinne Day and David Sims. They liked his unfettered approach and his refusal to apply "lots and lots of commercial-looking makeup".

Palau is, by Page's own admission, "a proper hairdresser — much more so than I am a 'proper' make-up artist". After training

in London salons, Palau worked shamelessly for "Everyone. That includes *Slimming Magazine* and *Woman's Own*". His first break came from the fashion photographer Robert Erdman: "He was definitely a bigger photographer than I was hairdresser." Palau, (who has since worked with artists such as Lisa Stansfield and George Michael) struck up a friendship with Erdman's assistant at the time, David Sims.

Sims's success as the photographic-chronicler of 1990s disenchanted youth (all be they beautiful and draped in designer clothing) has been pivotal to the careers of Palau and Page. When Sims was approached by magazines such as *Harpers Bazaar* and *Mademoiselle* to do fashion shoots in New York, he insisted on taking the pair along. Page and Palau are integral to Sims's photographs, which require just the sort of "undone, done" look that they have made their own.

Word has spread about the kind of fun you can have on a Sims, Page, Palau photoshoot. It's a much coveted (somewhat misunderstood) experience, rather like being on set with a combination of French and Saunders, the Monty Python team and numerous characters from *Viz* magazine. For most British stylists and editors, bored by the intensity of New York fashion and beauty shoots, it is a breath of fresh air. For those not schooled in British humour, it can be a bit much. "Don't worry. Dick'll get round to your make-up in a minute," said Palau loudly, to a beautifully made-up model on a recent beauty shoot. "You call this a hair do?" responded Page from the other side of the room, grasping the locks of a "finished" model.



Page and Palau have found their niche as foils to the often hysterical, "highly stressed" world of fashion shoots. "They're basically underwhelmed by all this attention," says *Vogue* fashion stylist Anna Cockburn. Palau is worried about typecasting over the waif look that made them famous. "But we were working before that and I hope we'll still be working when all this fuss dies down".

Iain R. Webb is on holiday.



The Page and Palau look: the bare necessities of the "scrubbed" face are minimal foundation, lightly smudged eyes, near nude lips and creative use of lipstick across cheekbones. Hair should not be immaculately groomed. "No make-up" make-up has taken over the catwalk (above, left and right) and dominates magazines. The American *Harpers Bazaar* (main picture) and the British *The Face* (next to main picture, bottom left), show the clear-faced classic as photographed by the master, David Sims. Lauren Hutton, 50, (top left) proves that the nearly nude face can be the older woman's best friend.

Photographs by: Kim Knott, Chris Moore and David Sims.

## HOTLINE

### A good bet from Fraser

JOCKEY has launched a range of underwear for women which will be sold at House of Fraser stores under the guarantee: "The most comfortable you'll ever wear or your money back." The no-nonsense selling approach is echoed in the design: simple, sporty and affordable. Briefs, crop tops, vests and bodices in black, white and natural cotton, from £2.99, House of Fraser stores.

THE RSA has a new Master of faculty — fashion designer Jean Muir, who will serve for a two-year term. She hopes to make the faculty better known worldwide and increase the understanding of design.

THE photographer Horst P. Horst's career has spanned more than 60 years, during which his distinctive, sensual style has graced fashion bibles the world over. From December 1-23, Hamilton's gallery in London will host an exhibition of the artist's platinum and silver prints, including portraits of Salvador Dali, Yves Saint Laurent and Noël Coward and previously unseen nudes. Hamiltons, 13 Carlos Place, W1.

PRINGLE of Scotland has opened a shop selling nothing but ladies' leisurewear. Luggage, jewellery, hoisery and outerwear have been added to the knitwear line and all can be found at 93 New Bond Street, London W1.

SINGER k.d. lang is to follow in the footsteps of Madonna. She has chosen a stage wardrobe from Dolce & Gabbana for her performance at Her Royal Highness's Concert of Hope on behalf of World Aids Day at Wembley on December 1.

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## Matthew Parris



■ Asking people what poetry they liked in childhood gives them the excuse to be honest about what they like now

What does Gazza have in common with Dame Barbara Cartland? Does Kenneth Baker believe in fairies? What poem has meant the most to Julian Clary, Quentin Hogg or Marjorie Proops? A little book, just arrived in my post, answers these questions and more.

Compiling it was a brainwave. Two friends of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, Rob Farrow and Jennifer Curry, wrote out of the blue to 700 famous people, asking each for their favourite childhood poem. From the replies, they have made a beautifully illustrated book which they have published. Entitled *I Remember, I Remember*, it is sold in aid of the fund.

Published by Red Fox (the paperback is £3.50) it is a marvellous Christmas present. You pick it up to read a line or two, and half an hour later your coffee is cold and you're still engaged. Take for instance the Archbishop of Canterbury's choice, *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. "The questions in this poem led me into Christianity," he confesses. Has Dr Carey mistaken the whole tenor of Edward Fitzgerald's work or have I?

Even more puzzling is Geoffrey Howe's choice. Is Lord Howe a religious septic, or has he chosen to ignore the whole point of Rupert Brooke's *Heaven*. You may remember this sharp satire ("... And under that Almighty Fin, / The Littlest Fish may enter in, / Oh! never fish conceals a hook; / Fish say, in the Eternal Brook..."). The poem derides Christian ideas of God and the Hereafter. Lord Howe's comment? "It is a charming reminder of school days along the River Lichen." Hum. Perhaps Lord Howe and Claire Rayner have more in common than we thought? Rayner chooses a poem by Walt Whitman, commenting that in girlhood it comforted her to find another mind doubting popular ideas of a God and a benevolent providence.

I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid and self-contained... They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins. They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God...

By contrast Ted Heath has chosen the lovely and devotional *Pied Beauty* by Gerard Manley Hopkins. Hopkins, Masefield (Paddy Ashdown's choice) and Kipling (Lady Thatcher, naturally) emerge as the three most popular poets. It is comforting to find that the literary unfashionability of a poet makes no difference

to his real popularity. I think that by asking people to name their favourite as children, this anthology has given them the excuse to be honest about what they still love now.

The roots of rhythm strike deep into childhood. I can't get out of my head a couplet a friend told me he could never, since boyhood, get out of his: "Oh fat white woman whom nobody loves, / Why do you walk through the fields in gloves... / Missing so much and so much?" (Frances Cornford, *To a Fat Lady Seen from a Train*). I see that Julian Lloyd Webber has chosen Gray's *Elegy*. At school in Southern Rhodesia I and my whole current-affairs class were forced to commit to memory and recite the whole of this, by Mr Murphy — a chemistry master told to teach current affairs and exacting a curious revenge. I have never regretted it. Do they still make you learn poems at school?

Humour also has a childhood appeal. John Major's *Jackdaw of Rheims* by the Rev R.H. Barham (a childhood favourite of my own).

Linford Christie's *Goosey Goosey Gander* and Peter Ustinov's choice of Belloc's *Lord Lundy* ("But as it is!... My language fails! / Go out and govern New South Wales!"). Others are intense. Neil Kinnock's favourite (by Idris Davies)...

Because they did not count the cost / But battled on when all seemed lost, / This empty ragged road shall be / Always a sacred road to me...

...Is poignant. Sue MacGregor's is a surprisingly feminist choice: *The Humble Wish* by Arabella Moreton ("... Since this I say, is every woman's fate / Give me a mind to suit my slavish state." "I hadn't known it in my youth," she comments, bitterly, "but I wish I had."

Barbara Cartland is more relaxed. Like Paul Gascoigne, she offers a poem she wrote herself. That *Gazza* is simply dreadful does not detract from his kindness in writing it especially for this book ("I am a professional footballer! Lying in a hospital bed, thinking of all those nasty things! All going through my head..."). Cartland includes the lines "Down in the dunes, the flaring lights / Of brothel, bar and street / Are filled with gaudy 'fly-by-nights' / Those vultures seeking meat". Dame Barbara was 18 when she wrote this, in 1920. It is surely the last time she ever wrote the word *brothel*.

And what can Bruce Kent have been thinking of? His poem? One of Tennyson's: *The Revenge*, the ballad of a battle at sea.

## The agriculture ministry is failing to stop the spread of a highly dangerous compound

## Chemical folly on the farms

By any standards the earldom of Mar is an ancient and romantic title; the present Countess of Mar holds it in her own right, as did more than one countess in the 14th century. It is the premier earldom of Scotland, and Lady Mar is the 31st in succession from Ruari, who became the first earl in 1115. In 1989 Lady Mar, who sits in the House of Lords, was living at St Michael's Farm, at Great Witley in Worcestershire. Her husband, who is a distinguished organicist, keeps sheep. That year she took part in sheep dipping, which until 1992 was compulsory under agriculture ministry regulations. Some of the dip splashed into her boot. The dip contained an organo-phosphorous compound which was highly toxic. Since that time she has suffered from OP poisoning, of which the classic symptoms include tightness of the chest, salivation, extreme fatigue, headaches and depression. In some cases the depression is suicidal. Lady Mar has become a leading campaigner against the continued use of OP pesticides.

In 1992, three years after this particular event and at least ten years after early warnings, John Gummer, who was then minister of agriculture, ended compulsory sheep dipping; as recently as last April he asserted that there was not enough evidence to ban OP sheep dipping, but he set up an enquiry by the Veterinary Products Committee, under the chairmanship of Professor James Armour of Glasgow University. This committee has had to decide whether OP dipping, as practised at present, is safe, whether it should be banned, or whether there is some compromise proposal such as confining dipping to registered contractors, which would make OP compounds safe enough to use.

The minister's decision on this report is expected to be published this

week; cynics expect it to be published on Budget day to minimise the publicity, but presumably it will be published on an ordinary news day, since it deals with an extraordinary health risk. The number of people who have suffered severe and permanent damage to their nervous systems as a result of exposure to organo-phosphorous compounds is certainly a multiple of the number of embryos damaged by thalidomide, whether one looks at the United Kingdom or worldwide. Lady Mar is one of many victims.

The chemical has been used in a concentrated form in sheep dipping, and those people, probably 300,000 or so in Britain, who have regularly attended dipping are therefore most at risk. Even if one takes sheep dipping alone, there are secondary and probably even tertiary victims. One secondary victim, whose active life has been brought to an end, is Brian Anderson, a 47-year-old Scot, who took his water from a well which seems to have been polluted with sheep-dip residues. Another victim in Somerset suffered from ME-like symptoms after sheep were dipped in a field near her house. The residues can remain toxic for indefinite periods; rivers downstream from English carpet factories have OP levels higher than the maximum European safety level; that could contaminate drinking water supplies.

No one can say how many people

have been poisoned. A National Farmers Union survey in the south west in 1990-91 found that about 35 per cent of farm workers taking part in sheep dipping had been affected, between 8 and 10 per cent of them severely. That would give an expected number of severe cases of at least 25,000 and another 75,000 milder cases among farmers and farm workers alone, but it only gives an order of magnitude. OPs are exten-

William Rees-Mogg

sively used in the Third World, often without protective clothing. Worldwide, those who have suffered severe nerve damage must run into the hundreds of thousands.

Why was this lethal poison — the active agent of the nerve gases developed in the second world war and used by Saddam Hussein against the Kurds and Iraqis — brought into widespread use as a pesticide? That came about as a reaction against the environmental damage done by the parallel group of compounds, the organo-chlorines, such as DDT. The organo-phosphorous compounds are relatively biode-

gradable, therefore tend to do less damage to the environment; unfortunately they attack the human nervous system — sheep may also be affected, but are not so vulnerable. They are probably more directly dangerous to humans than the organo-chlorines. When they were introduced, they were welcomed as a relatively environmentally friendly pesticide.

In the press, the great campaigner against OPs has been my Somerset neighbour, Christopher Booker, who has played in *The Sunday Telegraph* the role on OP poisoning that Harold Evans, then editor of *The Sunday Times*, played on thalidomide. He had been looking at the other uses of OPs, which put the whole population at risk. Organo-phosphorous is for instance present in some flea powders, and people have experienced the symptoms of poisoning after trying to rid their homes of fleas.

The list of foodstuffs that can be contaminated with OPs is horrifying. It certainly includes vegetables; although regulations say that vegetables should not be cut shortly after OP spraying, the evidence is that they often are, sometimes even on the same day, and that no adequate testing for OP residues is undertaken by supermarkets. Wheat is liable to be treated with OPs, not only in the field but in the store. A British Medical Association booklet on pesticides reports undesirable levels of organo-phosphorous compounds in

bread. Cows, like sheep, are often treated with OPs, and there has been little research on the possible contamination of milk. Animals, including cows and sheep, may concentrate OPs in some of their organs. There has been little research on the possible contamination of meat. Dr Coddington has done a study on OP in water supplies for the National Rivers Authority. That has been passed to the agriculture ministry and should be published next month. Vegetables, bread and water have definitely been contaminated, meat, milk, fruit and wine may have been.

There is obviously an administrative question. The dangers of OP poisoning have been known for a long time; indeed the compounds were developed as poisons. Some other countries have taken more decisive action, much earlier. OPs are hardly used in the New Zealand sheep industry; Britain is currently in breach of European Community standards, particularly on water supplies.

No doubt the fear of having to pay compensation on a level which could be comparable to asbestos claims has deterred both the manufacturers and the agriculture ministry from action they should have taken ten years ago. There has been an inexcusable history of lack of official concern, and there are still great gaps in public knowledge. The civil service attitude has been defensive and obstructive. The administration, ministers and civil servants alike, has failed to prevent a health catastrophe. Even if OP sheep dips are now banned — as they should be — there will still be a thousand other uses, each of which puts health at risk. The Countess of Mar is a classic case; one splash of fluid in a gumboot in 1989 has done irreparable damage to her nervous system — and there are at least tens of thousands in her situation.

## Beware of the growth factor

## Norman Lamont on the Budget he wants



I can well imagine Kenneth Clarke's feelings as he looks forward to tomorrow's Budget. There is no parliamentary occasion quite as demanding as the Budget speech. I remember the mixture of exhilaration and apprehension I felt before my first Budget. Unquestionably this has not been an easy Budget to frame. The Chancellor has to continue the progress on reducing the deficit that I began last March. He will have to preserve the outline of my tax increases, yet he will be expected to produce a political recovery before next year's local authority and European elections. Those two aims are difficult to reconcile. The Chancellor will naturally want to put his personal stamp on the Budget and not simply endorse my proposals. He may well decide to recast some of my plans. As long as the broad thrust remains, he will have my support.

This will be "the big Budget", as it is the first for many years to bring together spending and tax. I am sure it will prove a worthwhile and durable reform. I have little time for the complaints of unnamed "political managers", presumably Conservative Central Office, that the unified Budget will make it more difficult to win elections. When will they ever learn? It is sound policies that win elections and a unified Budget will improve the quality of policy making. No business would consider its revenues separately from its expenditure and no other government in the world does so.

Whatever his difficulties, I believe the Chancellor has some considerable advantages. The economic background is certainly much more favourable than appeared possible only a year ago. The UK economy is showing the other European economies a clean pair of heels in terms of growth. It is now clear that the recession ended and the economy started to grow again in the first half of last year. While unemployment continues to spiral in Europe, here it has been on a downward trend. Indeed, last month was only the fourth time in more than 20 years when both the retail prices index and unemployment fell.

The boom of 1988 was unsustainable. What we now have — and must

hold on to — is the prospect of steady but accelerating growth. The immediate political dividends may not be dramatic, but the cumulative effect will place the government in a strong position for an election victory in 1996. We will then be able to see that 1992 was the Conservative government's most vulnerable year since 1979, when we fought an election on the eve of recovery. Now the economic and political cycles are back in phase. I hope that the Chancellor will not place too much emphasis on that seductive word *growth*. Governments can do little in the short term to raise growth. Attempts to do so can lead to policy being loosened with insufficient regard for the longer term. The art of economic manage-

ment is to see the other side of the hill, and tomorrow's problem could well be over-rapid growth. In life one does not find happiness by aiming for it. Growth, too, is always the by-product of other policies.

It is fashionable to say that inflation is dead. But the overwhelming evidence of history is that the UK is an inflation-prone economy. Too often, governments have taken a short term view. That is why I believe we need an independent Bank of England. But government short-termism leads to short-termism in industry. Growth in demand is met by raising prices and increasing inflation rather than expanding production to win market share.

The scale of public borrowing is clearly Kenneth Clarke's major concern, as it was for me. The length of the recession has had an impact on public spending and thus the deficit, just as it is now doing on a similar scale in France and Germany.

When I announced last March a projected Budget deficit of £50 billion for this year, many commentators thought this too pessimistic. Although growth has been higher than forecast, inflation has been lower, depressing tax revenues and leaving the £50 billion looking pretty realistic. But I believe that recovery and my delayed tax increases will reduce borrowing more quickly than set out in the Red Book. The £44 billion public borrowing forecast for next year now looks too cautious and by

1995 I think that borrowing should fall to £30 billion or so. As far as the tax side of the accounts are concerned, I have bequeathed the Chancellor broadly what is necessary.

It is undeniable that the level of spending this year looks uncomfortably high, but the prime minister's election commitment that spending plans would not be cut tied our hands. Instead I set spending ceilings which were tight for the subsequent two years: 1 per cent next year and 1 per cent in 1995 after inflation.

If the Chancellor decides that further significant adjustments to borrowing are necessary, I believe that these should come from spending cuts. Large tax increases would damage the recovery; it is doubtful whether large deficits can be eliminated solely by raising taxes. In any case, there is a danger that tax increases — initially designed to cut borrowing — would over the medium term be used to finance increased spending. With borrowing on a downward path due to growth and to my tax increases, there would be a strong temptation to lift the lid on spending ahead of the next election. Politically the Conservatives simply cannot continue to be the party of low taxes if year after year we raise them.

Individual measures are less important than the overall thrust of the Budget. I have argued that capital gains tax should be reformed to stimulate enterprise and small businesses — much more effective than introducing a successor to the Business Expansion Scheme. We do not need further distortions to the tax system to tackle a problem caused by the tax system. There is a strong case for having a reduced rate of VAT to cover all items that remain free of VAT. Currently we levy too high a rate of VAT over too narrow a range; we could reduce the rate and broaden the base. As Chancellor I took two steps to reducing mortgage interest tax relief. The delicate state of the housing market makes further moves difficult, but the Chancellor could set our long-term plans to phase it out.

I hope that tomorrow will be a successful day for Kenneth Clarke. A good Budget will underpin the recovery and enable the country to benefit from the tough decisions it was my task to make when I was Chancellor.

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## Cat-o'-Ten ails

WHITEHALL is beside itself with concern for the health of the Cabinet Office cat, Humphrey, a friend to all ministers in need of consolation. Humphrey's kidneys are suffering and he has been placed on a strict diet. Staff have been ordered not to feed him.

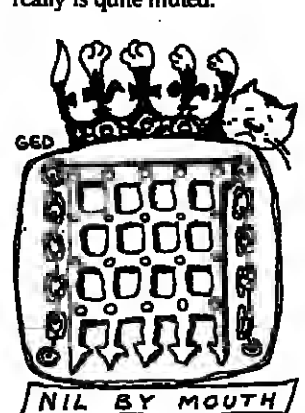
The black and white former stray tom is named after Nigel Hawthorne's Sir Humphrey in *Yes Minister*. Sir Robin Butler, cabinet secretary, took such a shine to him when he turned up on the doorstep in 1989 that he put Humphrey on the staff list and took out private health insurance to cover vet fees, accidental damage and third-party liability.

Hardly surprising, then, that the condition of the six-year-old moggy is of concern. A vet was called in last Wednesday and John Major is being kept briefed, for the prime minister has regularly entertained Humphrey at No 10 and the cat has sat in on some of the more important meetings of state.

According to a memo circulating Downing Street, Hum-

phrey "has been placed on a controlled diet and is not to eat anything other than the prescribed food. Staff are therefore asked that for his own good he is not fed any treats or titbits."

Sound advice indeed, says Joan Moore, editor of *Cat World*, who pinpoints a "preponderance of dry biscuits" as the cause. Staff at the Cabinet Office, where Humphrey normally beds down, promise to adhere to the instruction. "He can only have water. He really is quite muted."



One person who will not be shedding any tears is Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham. Although he has not met Humphrey, he had more than enough of Wilberforce, Humphrey's predecessor, who died in 1988. "I am not a great fan of cats, which give me asthma. Wilberforce used to spend the weekend on my desk. There was nothing I could do about it."

**Rough justice**  
The Scottish lawyer may become an endangered species. Last week Glasgow's first law library opened in a prison, Barlindie, courtesy of Glasgow solicitors Ross Harper, which gave 90 law books.

According to Cameron Fyfe, a partner at Ross Harper: "Prisoners need law books, especially for appeals. If legal aid is refused the clients often want to do the appeals themselves. With time on your hands it is possible to have a good stab at it yourself."

Particularly useful, he feels, will be the books on divorce and debt. "In prison, marriages often break up and prisoners often fall into debt and



## DIARY

have no way of paying it off. These should help them."

The idea is not universally popular among lawyers. "I think they felt a bit threatened," says Fyfe. "I don't agree. If anything, once people learn a bit more about the law, it might encourage more work for lawyers."

**French polish**  
SHOULD the Queen still be in doubt as to how to proceed with restoration of Windsor Castle, she could do worse than seek the advice of Jean Gueguinou, the new French ambassador, who presents his credentials on Wednesday.

For while Windsor is still in the early stages of repair, the French ambassador's magnificent residence in Kensington, which burnt down three years ago, is nearly ship-shape

— Virginia Bottomley's nickname. "I presume these are for the Queen Bee," he chirped.

**Lay-levels**  
THIS year's A-level students beware. According to *The Cambridge University Alternative Prospectus*, the essay is "Just another expression of male sexuality... the long preparatory laying out of the premises, followed by the argument which climaxes in a short conclusion."

A Cambridge spokeswoman urges potential undergraduates not to take these opinions too seriously. "Usually there are one or two points the authors expect to have to correct for the next edition."

● No rest for the art world yesterday, as Cork Street held its annual open weekend. One hot seller proved to be Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones's landscapes in oil, pastel and pencil. By Sunday lunchtime the Redfern Gallery had sold three out of six, at an average of £400. Manager Richard Selby likened them to that of the St Ives artist Christopher Wood. "There's a naive touch to them."



Leith, left, has designs on Elizabeth David's utensils

**Good cook's egg and spoon race**  
THE DISPOSAL of wooden spoons, saucepans and the odd frying pan do not normally excite interest from the country's leading auction houses, but then Phillips will be selling no ordinary cooking utensils next February. In the first kitchenware sale it has held, the auctioneer will be offering the contents of Elizabeth David's kitchen.

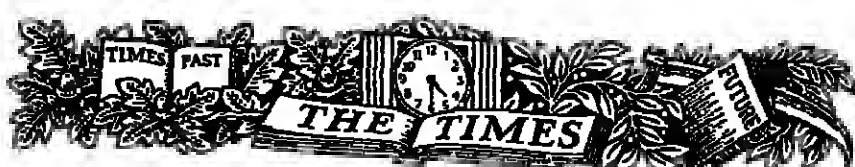


Leith, left, has designs on Elizabeth David's utensils

The contents of the kitchen drawers will be bundled into lots, with reserves starting at £20 or less. Mixing bowls and pots and pans will be offered for slightly more, and serious bidding is expected for some of David's personally annotated and gravy-splattered cook books.

"The majority of it is mid-20th-century cooking equipment," says a spokesman proudly. "But it's mostly everyday items. That's good enough for me. Elizabeth, who has already pencilled the date in her diary, 'I would buy the wooden spoons and frame them,'" she says.





## A TIME FOR CANDOUR

Old mantras will not keep the Ulster peace process alive

Yesterday Sir Patrick Mayhew had to struggle to limit the damage wrought by the disclosure that Sinn Féin has been in regular contact with the British government. When the Northern Ireland secretary rises in the Commons today, his struggles will intensify. Sir Patrick's admission that the "chain of communication" between ministers and the IRA's political wing had been functioning as recently as November 5 is a setback in itself. Much more damaging, however, has been the forceful manner in which the government previously denied that such talks were taking place.

Talks between the government and Sinn Féin have been an intermittent feature of Anglo-Irish relations in the last seven years. In 1921, Churchill and F.E. Smith refused to shake hands with the "men of blood" but did not balk at negotiation. Gerry Adams, now leader of Sinn Féin, was amongst a group of IRA representatives flown to London in 1972 for confidential talks with the then Northern Ireland secretary, William Whitelaw. The secret go-between during the hunger strikes of 1981 known as "Mountain Climber" is widely believed to have been a senior minister.

Against this historical background and at a time when some in Whitehall believe the Republican movement to be seriously weakened, it would have been exceptional if the prime minister had not responded to a request for advice from the IRA army council, allegedly seeking "the means of bringing [the conflict] to a close". The vigor of the denials is somewhat harder to understand. On November 1 Mr Major told the Commons that it would "turn my stomach" to "talk to people who murder indiscriminately". At his Guildhall speech on November 15, he ruled out "secret deals" and promised that "those who decline to renounce violence can never have a place at the conference table". The following day, Sir Patrick denied that Sinn Féin had made

contact with anyone who could be regarded as a British government emissary, a claim he repeated last Monday. Yesterday the government could only take refuge in unpersuasive semantic distinctions between "talks", "negotiations" and "contact".

Mr Major's laudable ambitions as a peacemaker in Northern Ireland now seem, at best, tainted by over-confidence. A chain of contact involving several intermediaries and written messages — and apparently known to many Unionists — was unlikely to remain secret for very long. Yet the government's cavalier denials up until the very last moment on Saturday suggest it believed that it could keep up the pretence indefinitely. By undermining faith in the prime minister's honesty, this miscalculation has dealt a considerable blow to the wider peace process.

At the very least, this revelation marks an end to the first phase of Mr Major's campaign. He can no longer seek to please all of the negotiating parties all of the time. The peace process needs more focus if it is to survive. The Democratic Unionist Party yesterday called for Sir Patrick's resignation. The Ulster Unionists, while muted in their response to the disclosure of the Sinn Féin talks, have condemned the role of Dublin in the negotiations and warned that Loyalists see "betrayal in every sentence they read or hear". The precise substance of the understanding between the prime minister and James Moynihan, the leader of UUP, remains particularly unclear.

Mr Major must now offer at least some clarification of the direction in which he sees this fragile series of bilateral negotiations heading. The publication today of past communications between the government and the IRA may offer some clues. But the prime minister and Sir Patrick can no longer rely on their old mantras to keep the peace process alive; this is a moment for modesty and candour.

## THE BIG RISK BUDGET

Clarke may move in the right direction, but not go far enough

When Kenneth Clarke sits down tomorrow after delivering his long-awaited Budget, he will be guaranteed rousing cheers from Conservative backbenchers, almost whatever measures he pulls out of his battered briefcase. But after the cheering has died down and the instant reckoning of winners and losers is finished, the question to ask about the Budget will be whether it still leaves the future of the economy, and of the Major government, too much to chance.

Mr Clarke will initially be judged by backbenchers, lobbyists and perhaps even the general public on the way he tinkers with the detailed structure of public spending and taxes. His decisions on fuel tax, welfare benefits and investment incentives will provoke the first rows and attract the early plaudits. But unless Mr Clarke announces some spectacular and unexpected breakthroughs — such as the abolition of mortgage tax relief or capital gains tax, or the introduction of a new system of public accounting which genuinely insulates productive public investment from arbitrary Treasury cuts — the Budget's detailed measures will have limited impact on Britain's long-term prospects.

As Norman Lamont notes on the page opposite, the individual measures in most budgets are less important than the overall thrust of the package. And the broad thrust of Chancellor's task has long been clear. To maintain the momentum of recovery, he must make further reductions in interest rates. To reduce the extravagant level of government borrowing, unprecedented in Britain's peacetime history, he must either add many more billions to the huge tax increases already announced by Mr Lamont or subtract substantially from the public spending plans bequeathed by the last Chancellor. The question is not which way Mr Clarke will move in the Budget, but how far he will dare to go.

The good news is that the Budget seems

likely to promise lower public spending. Although the public spending cuts may be achieved largely by creative accounting, reflecting lower than expected inflation, it would be churlish to dismiss them as pure gimmicks. For the Chancellor to let ministers steal the benefits of low inflation by quietly increasing their spending in real terms would have been all too easy.

The bad news is that, despite the squeeze on spending, the total reduction in borrowing achieved by the Budget is likely to be small. If ministerial hints about a £2 billion increase in taxes and a £1 billion cut in spending prove correct, the total fiscal adjustment will be a disappointingly dimid £3 billion. Of course, the Treasury could project a much bigger reduction in public borrowing simply by assuming higher economic growth than it did in the very cautious forecasts published in March by Mr Lamont. But for this happy outcome to be achieved, rather than merely projected, would require a marked acceleration in the pace of economic growth. This has been stuck at 1.5 to 2 per cent since last winter.

Sadly, the evidence at present is of a weakening in the economy, not an acceleration, and the additional taxes certain to be announced tomorrow April will further deflate demand. The case for further interest rate cuts will therefore be even stronger after the Budget — and no doubt, in time, lower rates will come. But the Treasury's half-measures, like the half point cut announced last Tuesday, look like continuing to lag behind the economy's needs.

The danger, therefore, is that recovery will remain patchy and fragile; and if the economy disappoints, public borrowing will overboot. Mr Clarke should announce big spending cuts and tax increases tomorrow — and point unequivocally to further substantial reductions in interest rates. If he fails to act boldly, he will not be showing caution. He will be taking a big risk.

## POLITICS RUSSIAN STYLE

The party of apathy starts out with a commanding lead

In the good old days, Soviet voters at least knew what to expect. Election campaigns were mercifully short and devoid of meaning. An occasional lucky factory worker was informed that he had put himself forward as a candidate, and a few weeks later found himself transported to Moscow, dutifully raising his hand when required in return for imported clothes and some choice cuts of meat. Television viewers had to put up with the obligatory "rallies" of a Suslov or Gromyko mumbling through the manifesto. But on the other hand there was usually the weekly Western or a romance of Boy Meets Tractor.

With democracy, all is confusion and uncertainty. Many and various parties are competing, each trying to outdo the other in invective, spleen and the promise of millennial utopia. Candidates pop up all over the place: at demonstrations, parades, in dilapidated factories and the far corners of Siberia. No one yet knows the electoral rules, let alone the terms of the embryonic constitution, and would-be deputies have now discovered they are to be housed not in the splendour of the Kremlin or the rebuilt White House, but in the drab 1960s tower block of the redundant Comecon building.

There is no escaping the election, even on television. Night after night come the party broadcasts, with none of the happy statistics and cornfield vistas of former years: instead, a western-style cacophony of complaints about the wretched state of Russia, the wickedness of the other parties, the dictatorial power of President Yeltsin and the folly of economic reform. Each party complains that no one is listening — "the only things on people's minds are cheap sausage and rising crime," a frustrated Green candidate said, admirably summing up the mood of the country.

Meanwhile, Mr Yeltsin seems bent on restoring a measure of the old-fashioned order. Party political broadcasts that question his authority, his draft constitution or his own dignity will be switched off. The press has been muzzled. The bickering candidates have been told that they will not be heeded if they continue bickering in the new parliament. Most people expect the party of apathy to win on December 12, with a resounding abstention. Television will trumpet a win for the president. The new deputies will start to explore their new privileges. Russian politics may even die down a bit, as in the "good old days".

## Churches' concern on Sunday trading

From the Archbishop of Canterbury and others

Sir, Parliament is about to debate the Sunday Trading Bill. We should like to urge caution on those who contemplate substantial or total deregulation.

Commercial pressures already loom large enough in our society. Sunday affords space for the nurture of other values, pursuits and dimensions of family life in a more restful atmosphere. On grounds of not only religious conviction but also pastoral experience, we believe that the spiritual, psychological and physical health of our nation would be poorer if there were no longer one common day in the week which was substantially different from the rest.

The effects of deregulation on consumers would be mixed. Small shops stand to lose, as therefore do many elderly people, others on low incomes and those without cars. Furthermore, unbridled competition for Sunday trade would create the momentum for progressive commercialisation of the day and weaken the conventions and expectations which underpin its distinctive character.

Provisions in the Bill to protect those who object to Sunday working are welcome as far as they go, but would be no match in the long run for financial and commercial pressures on individuals and their families if Parliament decided that substantial or total deregulation should be the norm.

Retaining the distinctive character of Sunday therefore depends on Parliament establishing a practical framework. Although this restricts the scope for some consumers in the short term, it will in fact serve the long-term interests of the whole community.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE CANTUAR,  
BASIL HUME  
(Archbishop of Westminster),  
JONATHAN SACKS  
(Chief Rabbi),  
JOHN A. NEWTON  
(Moderator, Free Church  
Federal Council),  
As from Lambeth Palace, SE1,  
November 26.

## Opinion polls

From Mr Brian Gosschalk

Sir, The BBC guidelines for producers on opinion polls (report, November 17) contain many useful reminders of good practice in reporting poll findings; these will be welcomed by serious practitioners, who have insisted for many years that media coverage includes details such as sample size, fieldwork dates, question wording, etc.

Unfortunately there are also serious flaws in the guidelines relating, for example, to quota sampling, telephone polls and exit polls, that need to be addressed.

It is highly questionable and politically naive for the guidelines to state baldly that "a Poll of Polls... is as reliable as its constituent polls, no more and no less" — in reality polls of polls are almost inevitably out of date compared with the most recent surveys, and a week can be a long time in politics.

Implicit in the guidelines, in my opinion, is an underlying lack of interest in what the public thinks. Despite its imperfections, survey research remains far and away the best means of understanding social and political attitudes. The new guidelines will severely constrain the reporting of public opinion by BBC journalists and restrict their ability to analyse current political events and government performance in the light of public attitudes and reactions. Such censorship will be of benefit only to those anxious to hide what the public thinks.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN GOSSCHALK  
(Director),  
Market & Opinion Research  
International Ltd,  
32 Old Queen Street, SW1,  
November 19.

## All presently correct?

From Mr Gareth Emrys-Jones

Sir, Whilst sailing this summer the political correctness (letters, November 24, 25) of "man overboard" was discussed. It was the unanimous verdict of the female crew members that the alternative offered of "floatationally challenged person in the water" did not carry quite the same degree of urgency.

Yours sincerely,  
GARETH EMRYS-JONES,  
Penwest,  
St Columba Major, Cornwall.

From Mrs J. H. F. Cox

Sir, What is the pc version of homo sapiens?

Yours faithfully,  
VALERIE J. COX,  
Strathmore, By Kilmartin, Argyll,  
November 24.

From Mr John Clayton

Sir, An apt politically correct alternative to "politically correct" would be "culturally and intellectually challenged".

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. CLAYTON,  
Kilran, Forganenny, Perthshire,  
November 23.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Facing up to evil in the Bulger trial and on our screens

From Dr John Gwyer

Sir, You rightly state in your leading article (November 25) on the murder of James Bulger that to pretend that there were rational explanations for the way in which Robert Thompson and Jon Venables acted on February 12 would be facile indeed. There are considerable numbers of children who are traumatised by a disturbed background with separated parents and lack of family support.

It is fortunate that only a small number of children from these backgrounds "are afflicted with a personality disorder characterised by a tendency to commit anti-social and sometimes violent acts, and a failure to feel guilt for such acts".

Amongst my medical records I have in my files the case of a child with the personality disorder described above who had been seen by three eminent psychiatrists, all of whom were attempting with psychotherapy and remedial behavioural therapy to change the pattern of behaviour of my patient.

In due course the patient had a childhood custody order, and then prison sentences for offences committed once maturity was achieved. I subsequently was able to elicit from a further psychiatrist that this patient was a psychopath, the definition of which you will find in inverted commas above.

Unfortunately psychiatrists nowadays are all too reluctant to make this diagnosis since this would appear to be judgemental, but I feel that in the Bulger case such a possibility may be exisist, and should not be ignored now.

In the future, when the question of release from custody is being assessed, sufficient time will have passed to evaluate if one of the boys has a persistent disorder or disability of mind which results in abnormally aggressive or seriously irresponsible conduct (psychopathic disorder, as defined in the Mental Health Act 1983).

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. GAYNER,  
79 Cadogan Place, SW1,  
November 25.

From Mr Conrad Goulden

Sir, Your film critic Geoff Brown writes (November 25): "Fancy an earlobe sliced off with a pair of scissors, an eye shot out through a door's spyhole, a head brained by a parking meter...? Then *Hard Target* is for you."

How much longer are we going to listen to those who would deny the connection between the unfettered availability of this type of foul violence and the blood-chilling events that unfolded in Preston Crown Court?

Yours faithfully,  
CONRAD GOULDEN,  
12 Eglinton Road, Putney, SW15,  
November 25.

From Mrs Lesley MacDonald

Sir, Many unhysterical individuals have believed for some time that there must surely be a link between constant exposure to violent videos and the desensitisation of many of our young, however difficult a concept on which to secure absolute proof.

Expose a child to enough violence, whether direct or witnessed, and violence will almost certainly be uppermost in that child's mind and displayed in his behaviour.

No one would suggest that restricting ease of access to violent videos will be an easy task, but Mr Justice Morland (report, November 25) and the terrible murder of James Bulger have given us the most costly pointer imaginable that the government and right-minded citizens must immediately find an effective way.

Yours faithfully,  
LESLEY MACDONAGH,  
2 Montpelier Square, SW7,  
November 25.

From Dr P. A. J. Waddington

Sir, Was it really necessary to stage the James Bulger murder trial? Had the defence pleaded guilty to manslaughter it is virtually certain that the penalty would have been the same.

It seems that no serious challenge was mounted to any of the prosecution case. On the other hand, the trauma that was inflicted on the parents of the victim and the killers, the witnesses, the jury and the defendants themselves would have been avoided by a guilty plea. I am at a loss to imagine what purpose was served by this gruesome spectacle.

Yours faithfully,  
P. A. J. WADDINGTON  
(Reader in Police Studies and  
Director of Criminal Justice Studies,  
Department of Sociology,  
University of Reading, PO Box 218,  
Whiteknights, Reading, Berkshire,  
November 25.

## Modern: but is it 'new' and is it art?

From Mr Arnold van Praag

Sir, Your leader on this year's Turner Prize (November 22), reminding us that "modern art is meant to open new windows, not close old minds", may have got hold of the wrong end of the stick.

True, Mooet and his friends were rejected by the Paris Salon, the then arbiter of established taste, and Turner was sometimes ridiculed.

Artists' work, we are told, "is too important to be defined by the past". Turner would hardly have agreed. Cézanne, that most innovative of artists, claimed that the Louvre is the book where we must learn to read. If their work was new, novelty was not the aim.

But how "new" is some contemporary art? Conceptualism has been the ruling dogma in art schools for years. It certainly is not rubbish since impeccable craftsmanship is its hallmark, but are these the "visionary scouts" of the future or does their conformism suggest the salon of our time?

Yours faithfully,  
ARNOLD VAN PRAAG,  
Dove Cottage,  
Weston Colville, Cambridge,  
November 22.

## Good news and bad

From Dr T. B. Binns

Sir, The Business News front page headline, "Rolls to shed further 1,000 workers" (section 2, November 19), was followed by nine inches of text. Two days before, the fact that a Scottish pit had been saved, securing 1,100 jobs and another 2,000 in dependent industries, was treated as "news in brief".

Martyn Lewis (Media, November 17) letters, November 22) has a point. What the country needs is confidence. We don't want to be demoralised all the time.

Yours faithfully,  
T. B. BINNS,  
15 The Causeway,  
Horsham, Sussex.

From Mr Peter Evans

Sir, Here are some "good news" headlines (letters, November 22) that might have been written: Many escape Black Death; London's Great Fire "contained". One of my

ears "fine", says Van Gogh; Scotland score 15 pits against All Blacks.

The fact is that bad news very often spurs action. So-called "good news" may sometimes reinforce complacency.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER EVANS,  
6 Foxcroft,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire,  
November 22.

From Mr John Hoben

Sir, Lest Martyn Lewis reach you first, please hear from me the very good news that 99.7 per cent of the pupils of Cornwall were faithfully and diligently about their studies throughout the past year.

We all love a good statistic. It's the way we tell it that makes the difference.

Yours aye,  
JOHN HOBEN  
(Headmaster),  
St Mary's School,  
Higher Treverne, Truro, Cornwall,  
November 23.

mechanism as suggested by Dr Goodhart.

At the time of the Falklands conflict neither Argentina nor the United Kingdom had ratified Protocol 1. Argentina ratified it on November 26, 1986. The British government indicated last month its intention to do so.

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE JACKSON,  
23 Spring Meadows,  
Great Shefford, Newbury, Berkshire,  
November 19.

From Mr Paul Smitherman

Sir, Dr Goodhart is quibbling over the meaning of surrender and the use of a white flag. To kill an enemy once he has surrendered is murder; and as Dr Johnson once said (in another context) "there's an end on't".

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL SMITHERMAN,  
82 Esslemont Road,  
Southsea, Hampshire,  
November 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

## Welsh cathedrals

From the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon

Sir, I sympathise with the dilemma expressed by the Dean of Ely in his article, "Keeping the faith, at a price" (November 23). The need to preserve such a glorious building as Ely Cathedral for future generations has to be balanced carefully alongside the need to enable it to continue as a centre of worship and mission in the present day.

As a Bishop of the Church in Wales I am naturally anxious about the six Welsh cathedrals, particularly Brecon Cathedral. Quite recently the state has begun to give financial support to efforts to preserve the fabric of cathedrals in England. So far, however, such support has been denied to cathedrals in Wales, although it is available for churches and chapels.

This is somewhat strange, as no Welsh cathedral charges for admission and, apart from St David's Cathedral, they are not able to attract the same number of visitors or contributors as their English counterparts.

Yours faithfully,  
DEWEI SWANSEA AND BRECON,  
Ely Tower,  
Brecon, Powys,  
November 23.

## Cash priorities

From Mr L. E. Faulkner

Sir, I read with disbelief the report (November 19) that a man who fell off his motorcycle during his test was awarded £138,202 against the Department of Transport, having claimed that it let him take the test before he was ready.

I fail to see why any of the taxes I willingly pay should be used so to compensate somebody who presumably wanted to drive on a motorcycle and also presumably considered himself ready to take the test.

When will people learn to take responsibility for their own actions?

Yours in high dudgeon,  
L. E. FAULKNER,  
27 Hazlitt Drive,  
Queen's Avenue, Maidstone, Kent,  
November 19.

From Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Douglas

Sir, The absurdity of the award to the learner motorcyclist is in stark contrast with your preceding report about the Humberside police who could not afford to send bloodstained clothes and glass for forensic tests because of financial restraints, so no action was taken against two suspects.

Yours sincerely,  
J. M. DOUGLAS,  
Chapelfield, Denton,  
Hazelton, Norfolk,  
November 21.

## Best foot forward

From Mr G. B. Miller

Sir, My wife bought me a pair of socks recently. The front of the label read: "The ozone friendly sock. 100% natural cotton. This product contains no CFC (chlorofluorocarbons)." The back of the label carries on: "100% cotton. Helps prevent foot odour which is probably a major cause of the destruction of the ozone layer."

I think we should create a sink about the failure of the government to alert us to this danger.

Yours faithfully,  
G. B. MILLER,  
68 Adisham Green,  
Church Milton, Sittingbourne, Kent,  
November 26.







OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY ROSE

Geoffrey Rose, CBE, physician and epidemiologist, died on November 12 aged 67. He was born on April 19, 1926.

GEOFFREY ROSE was a key figure in the enormous progress that has been made worldwide in the last few decades in the epidemiology and prevention of cardiovascular disease. His work spanned the first studies identifying risk factors for coronary heart disease in individuals, epidemiological studies examining the occurrence of coronary heart disease in populations, intervention trials and, ultimately, the development of preventive clinical practice and public health policy.

However, his influence extended far beyond cardiovascular disease. By improving both the practical and theoretical scientific tools of epidemiological investigation he fostered advances in the entire field. Ultimately, his insights into the relationship between ill health, or deviance, in individuals and the populations they come from, have changed our whole approach to strategies for improving the health, in its broadest sense, of individuals and populations.

Geoffrey Rose was a scholar both at Queen's College, Oxford, and then at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, qualifying in medicine in 1949. He subsequently held clinical posts at St Mary's Hospital where he began his lifelong interest in the treatment and prevention of cardiovascular disease. He joined the research staff of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1959, becoming a lecturer and then

reader in Epidemiology there before returning to St Mary's in 1970 as Professor of Epidemiology. In 1977 he was appointed Professor of Epidemiology at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Through his whole professional career he continued his clinical work at St Mary's Hospital. Indeed, the bridging of clinical medicine, with its focus on individuals, and epidemiology and public health, with their focus on populations, was a constant theme throughout his life.

One of Geoffrey Rose's concerns both as a clinician and scientist was that inferences are only as good as the data on which they are based. When he started research work in the 1960s there were no generally accepted, standardised methods for diagnosis of coronary heart disease in populations and his initial work focused on developing more valid measurement methods. The manual he prepared in 1968 with Henry Blackburn for the World Health Organisation, *Cardiovascular Survey Methods*, is still the international standard.

His research contributions were prolific: the Whitehall Study of London Civil Servants and the WHO European Collaborative Trial of Coronary Heart Disease, encompassing centres in Belgium, Italy, Poland, Spain and the UK, are just two examples of studies among the many he led which contributed greatly to the understanding of the causes and prevention of coronary heart disease.

However, it was the INTERSALT study — an international co-operative study of blood pressure patterns and



their determinants in 52 communities — that led to his most fundamental appraisal of the relationship between ill-health in individuals and ill-health in populations. In his earlier writings he noted that medical practice is largely concerned with treating sick individuals but: "While such a rescue operation is entirely appropriate, this sort of symptomatic strategy can no more solve the problem of mass diseases than famine relief can solve the problem of hunger in the Third World. The radical solution is to

identify and, if possible, to remedy the underlying causes of our major health problems."

During his early clinical training with Sir George Pickering at St Mary's he got the idea that a population can be studied as an entity, for between its extremes (the sick) and its masses (normal people) there exists a continuity: people who are "hypertensives" are simply the tail-end of a normal distribution. Hence, apparently individual clinical problems such as heart attacks are part of a problem in the whole community. The INTERSALT study demonstrated that the proportion of persons who were defined as "hypertensive" was directly related to the population mean level of blood pressure. The same finding applied to behavioural factors such as alcohol intake: that is the proportion of high alcohol drinkers was directly related to the population level of alcohol. As he states in his book, *The Strategy of Prevention* (OUP 1992): "The health of society is integral, and the supposedly 'normal' majority needs to accept responsibility for its deviant minority — however loath it may be to do so."

Geoffrey Rose saw teaching as inextricably linked to his work as a clinician and scientist and in this, as in all his other roles, he was outstanding. The clarity and originality which characterised his thinking was reflected in his writing and lecturing. He was responsible for training whole generations of epidemiologists not just in Britain but internationally. In 1968, together with colleagues Richard Remington and Rose and Jerry Stamler from the

United States, he initiated the annual International Society and Federation of Cardiology ten day teaching seminars in cardiovascular disease prevention and epidemiology.

The aim was to strengthen efforts to prevent mass cardiovascular disease by providing training to physicians and scientists around the world. These seminars, now in their 26th year, have trained more than 800 people from over 80 nations in the aetiology and prevention of cardiovascular disease. The majority of current international leaders in the field of cardiovascular epidemiology are former fellows of the 10-day seminars.

Geoffrey Rose's personal qualities were an integral part of his success as a clinician, scientist and teacher. There are few people in whom the qualities of kindness and devastating honesty and integrity can coexist without contradiction: when asked for an opinion, he could always be relied on to tell the truth, which was sometimes painful, but this was always done with such thoughtfulness and concern that lessons were taken aboard. Similarly, he combined the qualities of scientific scepticism, recognising that data are subject to error and therefore theories are impermanent and liable to be superseded, with a deep faith in the inherent goodness of people.

The strength and calm which emanated from Geoffrey Rose derived from his steadfast religious faith, as well as his harmonious family life, in particular, his exceptionally happy marriage. He is survived by his wife Ceridwen, their two sons and a daughter.

CLAUDE KNIGHT

Claude Knight, head of the Special Operations Executive's Belgian section, 1941-43, and later a Sussex farmer, died on November 17 aged 83. He was born on February 16, 1910.



THE year 1941 was a bad one for SOE in Belgium and 1942 was worse. The basic trouble was that in so small a country everyone, who was anyone, knew everybody else. The result was that secrets were all but impossible to keep, and the Gestapo's many double agents had an easy run.

Moreover, in London, the Belgian government-in-exile, at odds with its monarch who had stayed behind to share his occupied subjects' lot, was riven by incessant, internal squabbles. One of the worst of these was that fought out between the defence and the security authorities about which of the two should control secret work in Belgium.

It was into this maelstrom of conflicting interests that in the spring of 1941 Claude Knight was thrown by the Special Operations Executive. The then head of the Belgian section of SOE — a former manager of the Antwerp gas works — suddenly fell out with his superiors and Knight replaced him in November 1941. Zealous and loyal, he could exercise little influence on the various quarrels that were going on — beyond the softening effect of good manners. Despite his stammer he did his best to smooth over differences which, alas, turned out to be insuperable.

Eventually his health broke down and he was moved in September 1943 into the salaried waters of the Belgian section of the Political Warfare Executive. For his work with SHAEF in Belgium from 1944 to 1945 reviving the indigenous information services he was mentioned in despatches and made an officer of the Order of Leopold.

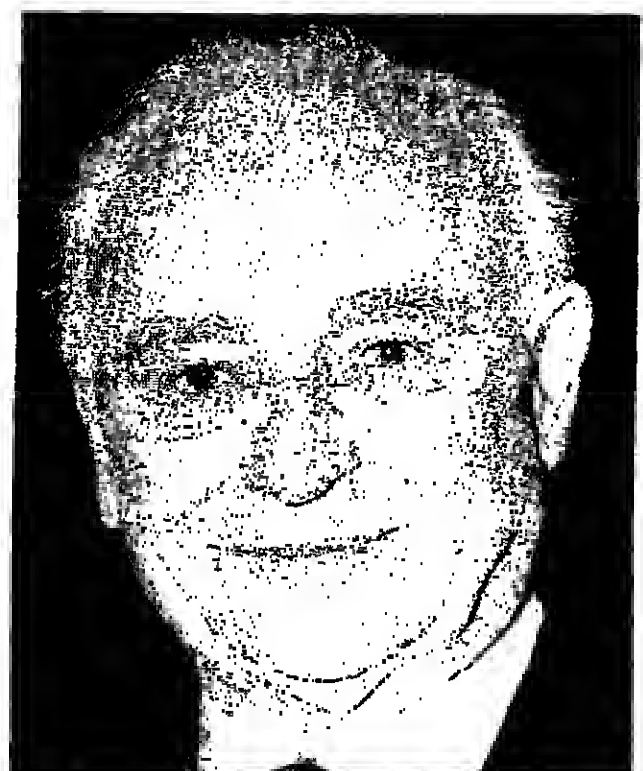
Claude Thorburn Knight was born in Didsbury, Manchester. He went from the army class at Marlborough to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he continued his military studies and took a pass degree. He then spent six years, 1930-36, as a Coldstream Guards officer, left the Army to travel and was recalled from the reserves at the outbreak of war. He served on the War Office's military intelligence liaison staff, working with the French, the Dutch, the Belgians and others until he was taken on by SOE.

He had married in 1935 Patricia Dodson, daughter of the second Lord Monk Bretton and grand-daughter of Sylvain van der Weyer, long the Belgian minister in London. This gave him standing in Belgium as well as in British society.

After the war he turned his back on metropolitan life, and settled on a farm near Lewes in Sussex, where his brother-in-law's estate lay. He managed a large dairy farm with enterprise and success for 35 years, and served on the East Sussex County Council. He and his wife retired from their farm in 1981 and in recent years had both struggled against protracted illness. She survives him, together with a son and three daughters.

KENNETH CONNOR

Kenneth Connor, MBE, comic actor, died from cancer at his home in Harrow, north London, yesterday aged 75. He was born in 1918.



KENNETH CONNOR, a stalwart of the *Carry On* films and, more recently, the television series *Allo, Allo*, was a highly skilled character comedian who specialised in nervous little men roles.

He first came to prominence on the radio in the 1950s and over the next forty years proved to be a consummate comic performer on stage, in films and on television.

He played a jittery hypochondriac in the first of the *Carry On* films, *Carry On Sergeant* in 1958 and — alongside Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey, Dora Bryan, Sid James and Hattie Jacques — became a fixture of the series. Most recently he was the amorous undertaker Alphonsie in *Allo, Allo*.

Kenneth Connor's mimicry was legendary. He was able to switch from broad Scottish to stuttering Frenchman, to upper class twit almost in the same breath. His expertise was particularly evident on radio when he was sometimes called upon to play two or even three roles in sketches in Ted Ray's long running *Ray's a Laugh* programme and, later,

the *Frankie Howerd Show*. Indeed such was his prowess that Howerd, ever a nervous performer, would express his envy at Connor's skills and was even known to curtail a sketch if the writers had unwittingly included too much of the diminutive comedian's vocal play. Glaring at

Connor he would say: "Of course I don't do voices." Connor would take the hint and not be quite so vociferous in his interpretation of a character.

After leaving the Central School of Drama in 1936, Kenneth Connor travelled the country working in various repertory theatres including the Bristol Old Vic until he joined the Army on the outbreak of the war. He served for six years with the Middlesex Regiment and said it was the longest engagement he had had until then.

On leaving the Army he returned to the profession. Realising he was not a "tall, impressive juvenile lead or a young lover type" he decided to specialise in comedy. Although he was not often out of work, several times during the late 1940s he almost gave up acting because as he once put it: "The profession I loved seemed a degrading chore."

But he landed a part in the *Just William* radio series. This was followed by a role in the popular early soap, *The Huggers* and then by *Ray's a Laugh*.

He was much in demand and at one time filled in for an ill Harry Secombe in some of the last *Goon Shows*. He recalled: "It was short notice and I couldn't build up a character, and no one could copy Harry. But I knew at once I was in the right atmosphere. It was like having an injection and I was able to pull something out."

He played a taxi-driver in the 1955 Ealing comedy *The Ladykillers* and, together with his idol Ted Ray, successfully made the transition from radio to television comedy. Connor revelled in his work remarking once: "Working with a happy set of boys and girls in a television series is the real joy of living."

He also did many "funny voices", as he called them, in television commercials.

Connor loved comedy but sometimes yearned to get back to serious drama. He said once: "If I could have been a soldier in a prisoner of war cage with Alec Guinness in *Bridge on the River Kwai* I would have been flattered."

He was awarded the MBE in 1991 for his services to show business. He is survived by his wife Margaret and two

ERSKINE HAWKINS

Erskine Hawkins, jazz trumpeter and bandleader, died in New York on November 12 aged 79. He was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on July 26, 1914.

IN THE 1930s, famous for his high note trumpet solos, Erskine Hawkins was billed as the "Twentieth Century Gabriel", and his popularity was comparable to that of other swing bandleaders such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Cab Calloway. In 1939 he recorded "Tuxedo Junction", which he wrote with his saxophonist Julian Dash and William Johnson, based on a simple riff with which the band finished its sets at the Savoy Ballroom and named after a crossroads in their hometown of Birmingham.

The record became a hit and was subsequently re-recorded in an even more popular version by Glenn Miller. For Hawkins, this was the first of a series of hits, including "Junction Blues", "Tippin' In" and (featuring the boogie woogie piano of Avery Parrish) "After Hours".

The main characteristic of the band on these discs was its disciplined ensemble playing behind Hawkins' high note displays, to the extent that the critic Stanley Dance rechristened him "Irkome" Hawkins.

Erskine Ramsay Hawkins was born into a musical neighbourhood and was initially encouraged to play the drums. He then tried his hand at most band instruments before settling briefly on the trombone and finally the trumpet. He won a scholarship to Alabama State Teachers' College as an athlete, but

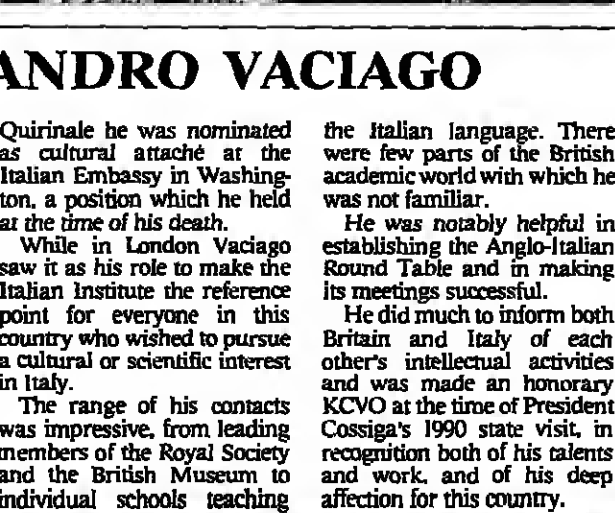
he recalled: "I was there a couple of weeks and they found out about my music and asked me to forget about athletics and go into the music department."

At college, Hawkins became leader of the campus band, and in 1934 they travelled to New York. Initially as the "Bama State Collegians", but subsequently becoming Erskine Hawkins and his Orchestra. Given their common background, they remained together for many years, with far fewer of the personnel changes that afflicted other bands of the period.

Their period of greatest success began in 1938 with a recording contract for the Bluebird label. The key members of the group were the brothers Dud and Paul Bascombe (who played trumpet and saxophone respectively), Julian Dash and Avery Parrish. Their baritone saxophonist Haywood Henry also became a well-known figure on the New York scene, and contributed a long reminiscence of his time with Hawkins to the *Bulletin of the Hot Club of France* in 1979.

Hawkins became the resident bandleader at the Savoy in New York, opposite Chick Webb, travelling the length and breadth of America during his periods off from the club. "During the war years," he remembered, "we'd play for the Navy, Army, Marines, wherever we were on a base on our tours."

Like most other bandleaders, Hawkins found it hard to keep a hand on the road after the war, and he scaled down his group to a sextet before following the example of Doc Cheatham and forming a quartet. With this group including pianist Joe Vitale and bassist Doug Richards) he settled in 1967 for what was initially a week's booking at the Concord Hotel on Lake Kiamasha in the Catskills in upstate New York. He ended up staying there over 20 years and acquiring the status of a jazz legend whom people travelled for miles to see. He and his wife Gloria would commute home from the hotel to Willingborough, New Jersey, a couple of days a week, but the Concord was effectively Hawkins' home and his life: "The people seem to enjoy me. A lot of people do remember me and come up to let me know that." The head of the hotel wrote a few years ago: "He instantly gives guests of all ages a powerful, romantic feeling. His sweet horn makes them all want to get up on the floor and dance."



ALESSANDRO VACIAGO

Alessandro Vaciago, cultural attaché at the Italian embassy and director of the Italian Cultural Institute in London, 1981-90, died in Washington on November 17 aged 62. He was born in Piacenza on September 11, 1931.

SANDRO VACIAGO's background and interests, and above all his personality, enabled him to straddle two national cultures and diverse academic disciplines.

He made his reputation as a student of chemistry, after graduating from the University of Milan in 1953 he undertook research in various Italian universities and later in the United States (at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and at Caltech in Pasadena) and also at Brasenose College in Oxford (of which he became a supernumerary fellow). He published a large number of scientific papers and held professorial posts at several Italian universities, including Milan and La Sapienza in Rome.

His career changed direction when he was appointed to London as cultural attaché at the Italian Embassy and director of the Italian Institute, posts which he held with distinction for nine years. He then returned to Rome as counsellor to the president for cultural and scientific affairs, an appointment made personally by President Cossiga.

Quirinale he was nominated as cultural attaché at the Italian Embassy in Washington, a position which he held at the time of his death.

While in London Vaciago saw it as his role to make the Italian Institute the reference point for everyone in this country who wished to pursue a cultural or scientific interest in Italy.

The range of his contacts was impressive, from leading members of the Royal Society and the British Museum to individual schools teaching

the Italian language. There were few parts of the British academic world with which he was not familiar.

He was notably helpful in establishing the Anglo-Italian Round Table and in making its meetings successful.

He did much to inform both Britain and Italy of each other's intellectual activities and was made an honorary KCVO at the time of President Cossiga's 1990 state visit, in recognition both of his talents and work, and of his deep affection for this country.

A WOMAN'S VANITY SUICIDE AFTER BEAUTY TREATMENT

A verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind" was returned at an inquest at Paddington yesterday on the body of Mrs. Lizzie Rigby, aged 51, of Hindley Road, Nuneaton, who was found gassed in a London hotel on Sunday.

Her husband, Mr. Harold Rigby, a retired colliery manager, said that his wife had recently been a little depressed. She was rather sensitive about her appearance and had had treatment in London, the result of which was a great disappointment. She left home on November 22 for London to keep an appointment with a Mr. Bell, who had been giving the treatment.

After his wife left home on Thursday she wrote to him from London, and he received a telegram saying that she would not return till Monday.

The coroner then read the following extract from the letter: "I am still disfigured, and shall be. I just cannot think what possessed me to have it done. It seems like a bad dream." John Cornelius Bell was called, and described himself as a qualified dentist and plastic surgeon.

ON THIS DAY November 29 1934



"She could not grow old gracefully and accept quietly the ravages of time," the coroner said at this inquest on a woman who, dissatisfied with the work of a plastic surgeon, killed herself. The coroner was somewhat sceptical about the use of the term "plastic surgeon".

Mr. Oddie—How can you call yourself a surgeon if you have no surgical qualifications?—There is no particular rule about it. You call yourself what you like. Plastic surgery is a thing which requires the highest form of skill. It means replacing noses and ears. You do not do that kind of thing, do you?—No, the rejuvenation part.

You are a beauty specialist?—It is really cosmetic surgery.

Cosmetic surgery? Are you not what is popularly known as a beauty specialist?—Yes, probably.

Then why don't you say so, instead of

plastic surgeon? Do you treat dropped faces?—Yes.

Mr. Bell said that Mrs. Rigby told him that she had had her face lifted before and the eyes corrected, but she wanted more treatment as it was not quite firm enough.

He told her to have her face lifted first and the eyes done later, and this he performed successfully.

The Coroner—What did you charge for it?—She paid 20 guineas.

Mr. Bell said that he last saw Mrs. Rigby on Thursday, November 22 when she came to London. She told him there was still a swelling and he said that that was due to the pressure of her artificial dentures and would go down in due course.

The Coroner: Did she seem very depressed?—Not particularly.

Did she ask for her money back?—Yes she said "What about it?" I said I had not charged anything for the lifting in.

The Coroner said the woman was dissatisfied with her personal appearance and had been brooding over it. She left pathetic letters, in which she exaggerated her condition and said she was hideous.

She was apparently absorbed in her vanity, and could not grow old gracefully and accept quietly the ravages of time.

THE TIMES  
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# THE TIMES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 29 1993

## England captain confident team can build on triumph Carling says best is yet to come

By DAVID HANDS

WILL Carling completed his set of victories over the world's leading rugby union-playing countries on Saturday, when England defeated New Zealand 15-9 at an emotional Twickenham. But England's captain, whose leadership career began five years ago in victory over Australia, believes that his country's fourth success in 88 years against the All Blacks is just a beginning. "It's only the start," Carling said. "We have 18 months to build for a World Cup and that's what it's all about." But he warned of the dangers of making too many demands on the leading players. "English rugby... is on a high now but when I hear talk of a possible Anglo-Welsh league and more demands, I wonder who is administering the game.

"Please look after your top players because it's what happens in the shop window, the international game, which is reflected elsewhere," Carling's

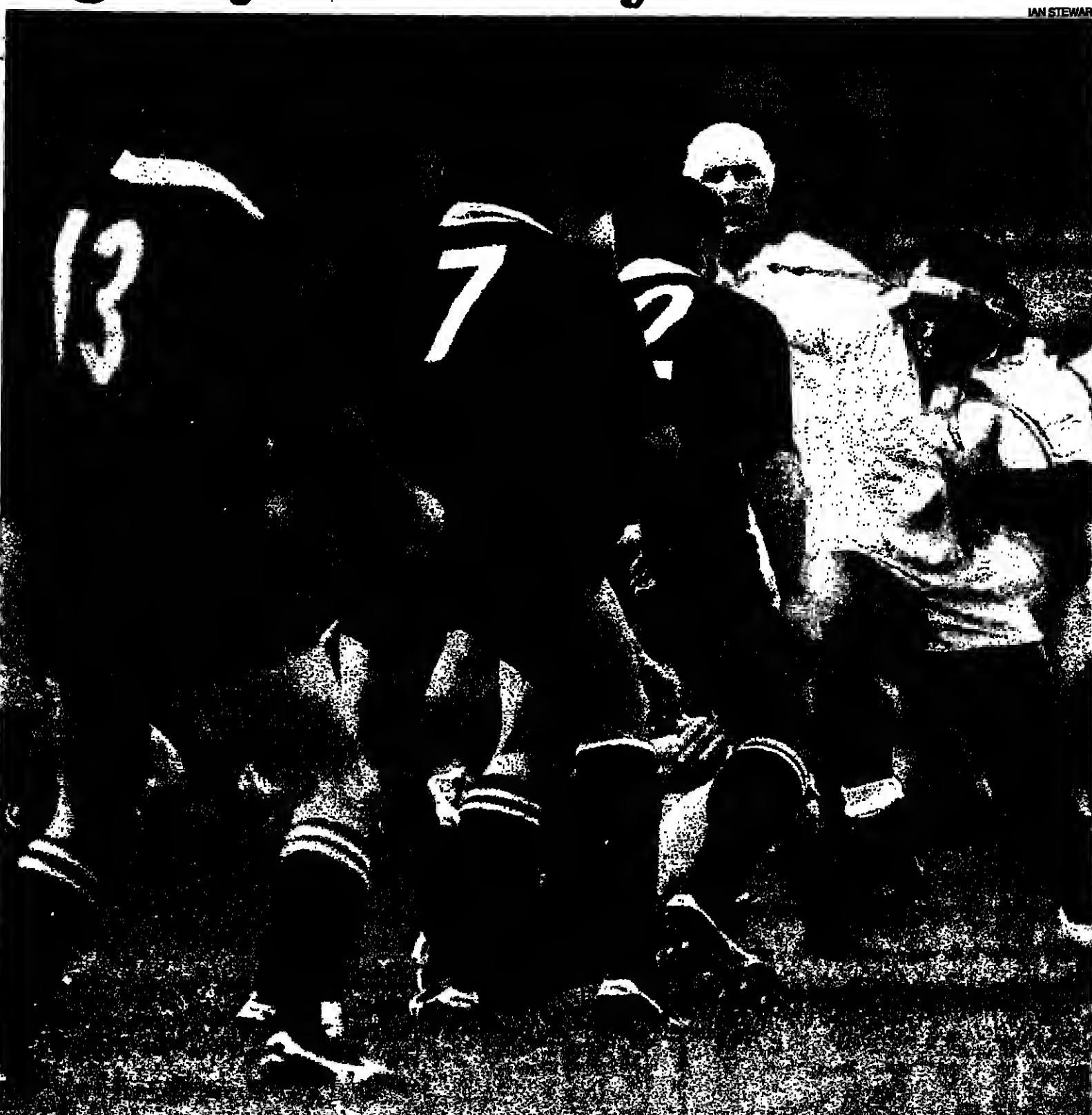
"The haka, that piece of ritual intimidation, is normally worth a three-point start to New Zealand... the English contained themselves with the 15-man glare on Saturday. It was the crowd that did the work. The haka was drowned." Simon Barnes, page 25

stricture is well-timed: England's success comes when English team sport, notably the national sport of football, is at a low ebb. Victory over New Zealand, previously undefeated in their tour of England and Scotland, gives rugby union an even stronger stall in the market place.

If used correctly it also gives the Rugby Football Union a stronger voice in the sport's politics. The New Zealand lobby has long been strong because of their sustained playing excellence and, in the last decade, they have formed a formidable alliance with Australia who, despite Saturday's outcome, may still be ranked the world's leading team.

Political influence derives directly from playing strength, not from historical tradition. If English administrators prefer to ally themselves with their colleagues from the other home unions — wish to control the headlong rush of rugby union towards professionalism then, like it or not, their players have given them a stronger platform from which to do so.

Carling judged the game to be the most significant of the 43 in which he has played, notwithstanding grand-slam matches and the World Cup final of 1991, because it was such an inexperienced England team. Indeed one of the



The All Blacks line up three deep as they try to halt Ugo's determined progress during England's 15-9 victory at Twickenham

most inexperienced players, Kyran Bracken, was fortunate to complete the match after being stamped on the ankle by Jamie Joseph. Bracken has damaged ligaments which will prevent him playing for at least a fortnight. He had the ankle strapped twice during the match but came through as much on adrenaline as anything else. "Kyran played like an All Black," Sean Fitzpatrick, the New Zealand captain, said. "Nothing fazed him, he always wanted to have a go."

After such a singular trib-

ute, Bracken's success, and that of Nigel Redman and Phil de Glanville, will give the England selectors a pleasant headache when they consider the return after injury and illness of Martin Bayfield, Jeremy Guscott and Dewi Morris. England's next match is on February 5, at Murrayfield against Scotland, who also scored 15 points against the All Blacks but conceded 51.

"I hope people don't over-expect from us now," Carling said. "This was a one-off occasion and we have things

to put right. But this team has great potential."

Geoff Cooke, England's manager, echoed the sentiment: "We can develop into a very good team over the next 18 months to two years with an all-round game," he said. "This is a great start, it gives the guys so much self-belief, that deep-seated confidence in yourself and a huge platform to build on."

Fitzpatrick, only the fourth New Zealand captain to make a losing speech after playing England, said: "We came intending to make a statement

about New Zealand rugby and I believe we did. We wanted to win the test matches but we didn't. The sun will rise tomorrow, but as players we can hold our heads high. It's difficult for us to accept but you have to be a good loser to be a good winner."

The match completed New Zealand's international year, during which they have won five games and lost twice — to a British Isles team including 11 Englishmen and now to England. Whether that record

is good enough to maintain the selection panel in their posts will be known next month but challengers are known to include Lyn Colling, the former Ottago scrum half.

Laurie Mains, the coach, declined to offer an opinion on the world rankings: "You don't do that on the strength of one game but over a season," he said. Fitzpatrick's belief, however, is that Australia remain No 1 "but England are right up there."

Match report, page 24  
Andrew Longmore, page 25

## Foul play leaves black mark on historic day



Andrew celebrates victory at the final whistle

Nothing can detract from the pleasure every England player took from a victory which all of us will remember for the rest of our lives. It was an outstanding performance supported magnificently by a highly vocal crowd.

But the deliberate stamping on Kyran Bracken's ankle in the first minutes of the game marred the occasion. I thought the incident was appalling. I did not see it at the time but the video clearly showed Jamie Joseph stamping on Bracken's ankle.

It was a deliberate stamp, nothing less. There is always a bit of physical and verbal intimidation at this level of the game and there always will be. That is part of the game and no one complains about it. But this is different. We could have lost Bracken after only four minutes and everyone knows we had enough problems as it was.

The All Blacks would have been fully aware of that. They would have known another new cap coming into our side in such circumstances would have been extremely difficult for us.

The rucking incident in

**Rob Andrew, the England stand-off half, reflects on the pleasure and the pain of victory over the All Blacks at Twickenham**

which Phil de Glanville was injured could be excused more easily than this incident. You could say that all the players were going in with their feet when de Glanville was hurt. Rugby's tendency is to say this sort of thing is part of the game and we will forget it. That is honourable in some ways but when it comes to deliberate foul play I think the authorities have to ask "Why should we accept this?"

Our game plan on Saturday was very simple: there was nothing particularly clever about it although it was well thought out. The key was the execution of it and we were only able to do that because we won so much lineout ball.

The plan was to drop out long every time because we did not want the All Blacks gaining possession 20 yards from our line and launching those rolling mauls which they perform so well. We kicked long and decided to

say to them "Now what are you going to do?" We felt confident that if they ran the ball back we could tackle them effectively. And if they kicked the ball back at us we would have an aerial ping pong. We did not mind that, especially when we were in the lead.

We needed to win quality first-phase possession from which we could set a platform for second and third-phase possession quickly. We also wanted to spread the ball wide if it was possible and I think maybe Tony Underwood should have scored when we put him away in the first half.

But the key part was to ensure we got out of our half as fast as possible. We did not want to play the game in our own territory when we could avoid it. My role was simply to keep the ball in front of our forwards.

No one will forget beating the All Blacks, of course, but

the atmosphere in the stadium will live just as long in my memory. For excitement, it surpassed any other game I have played in for England, including the World Cup final. Before the start we had wondered whether the atmosphere, the electrifying buzz of excitement of an international match at Twickenham, would be dulled because the crowd had been moved further from the pitch on the north and east sides of the ground. But it was phenomenal and the noise was incredible, much louder than anything I had heard on a pitch before. It seemed like a wall of sound was rolling off the terraces and reverberating through the stadium.

The refereeing of Freek Burger also had a real effect. The impact he made in those first 20 minutes, when he made it plain he was not going to accept the sort of things New Zealand had been getting away with throughout this tour, was considerable. It made them think and put them off their game. They have used deliberate plays everywhere they have been but Burger was the first official on this tour to pull them up.

Interview by Peter Bills.

## Villa's proud away record marred by trip to Anfield

Liverpool ..... 2  
Aston Villa ..... 1

By PETER BALL

THE return of Barnes and Molby gave Liverpool a more familiar look yesterday but it was their young players who brought them a surprising victory. Goals from Fowler and Redknapp ended Aston Villa's unbeaten away record and their hopes of cutting Manchester United's lead.

Following a defeat by Southampton, it has been a bad few days for Villa. Yesterday, they will wonder how they last after being the better side for much of the first 75 minutes.

"I enjoyed that game more than some of the games we've won," Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, said afterwards. "At least we looked a decent side."

But still they lost and although Saunders, who hit the woodwork twice, may challenge it, the reason was lack of penetration. Despite a promising base in midfield, where Richardson and Townsend played with solid authority, they were unable to provide a sustained threat to Liverpool's defence.

Liverpool, by contrast, looked more dangerous as the game wore on and by the end the weight of shots and chances had tilted in their favour. Their young players are growing in confidence and assertiveness and Harkness, Matteo and Fowler all made important contributions.

Liverpool had started brightly, but by the half-hour mark there were mutters of discontent from the main stand and Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, was moved to diversionary tactics, complaining that the referee's shirt clashed with Villa's change strip.

It made no difference to villa's growing ascendancy, but the goal failed to materialise. Instead, with the interval approaching, it was

Liverpool who scored. Fowler heading in Matteo's cross from Nicol's short corner for his eleventh goal in as many games.

The goal at last provoked Villa into a more direct approach, and they almost equalised immediately. Grobbelaar just getting a touch to divert Saunders's brilliant drive on to the bar. "I still fancied us to win at half-time," Atkinson said, and his team gave flesh to his words as Nicol's header fell short of Grobbelaar and Atkinson moved in to equalise.

Again Villa looked the stronger side, but Liverpool were back in front as Fowler turned provider, sending Redknapp through acres of space to drive the ball through Bosnich's legs

**TOP OF TABLE**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	17	14	2	1	34	13	44
Leeds	17	8	6	3	29	19	30
Arsenal	17	8	6	3	17	9	30
Blackburn	17	8	5	4	22	18	29
Aston Villa	17	8	5	4	19	15	28
Newcastle	17	6	4	6	32	17	28
Norwich	16	7	6	3	25	16	27
QPR	17	6	3	6	29	23	27
Liverpool	16	8	2	6	24	16	28
Tottenham	17	5	7	5	22	18	22
Wimbledon	17	5	7	5	19	24	22

for his first goal of the season. Then the match caught fire. Grobbelaar denied Atkinson with a brilliant save. Bosnich did the same from Matteo and Walters, and Parker kicked Fowler's effort off the line.

Villa's defeat leaves Manchester United 14 points clear. "They must be laughing their socks off as everyone keeps beating everyone else," Richardson said.

LIVERPOOL: 4-1-2-1-2: 8 Grobbelaar — S Nicol, M Wright, N Rushick, S Harkness — J Molby (capt), M Walters, 80 mins — J Redknapp, O Matteo — J Barnes — I Rush, 8 mins.

ASTON VILLA: 4-1-3-2: M Bosnich — N Cox, P McGrath, E Barnes, B Small (sub: G Whittingham, 80) — K Richardson — R Houghton, G Parker, A Townsend — O Saunders, O Atkinson.

Referee: A White

Field of dreams, page 28  
Photograph, page 29

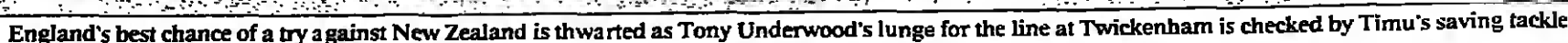
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prehistoric man.

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## MATCH FACTS

KICKS AT GOAL	Total	Con	Miss
 J Callard	6	4	2
R Andrew	2	1	1
J Wilson	8	3	5

Eight members of this England team mustered between them 16 caps, and of that octet two, in the spine of the team which runs from hooker, through No 8 and half backs to the full back, were making their debuts. Playing against the All Blacks, whose sustained record of excellence makes them the most formidable

Responsibility was heaped upon the 20-year-old which could not be shared by Marc Ellis or John Timu because they cannot kick accurately enough. The All Blacks might have solved that conundrum by moving Ellis to centre and playing Steven Bishop.

DAVID  
HANDS

England 15    New Zealand 9

They knew the drill: posted by Ian Jones and instituted a policy of collective responsibility. Wherever Jones roamed in the lineout, he had to be picked up. "It was all a matter of making sure you stood just behind him," Ben Clarke said, so that even if Jones got the first touch, a spoiling England

Burger, the South African referee, ruled areas of the game which officials so often by-pass. In his last international appearance, Burger was outstanding: if, as a development officer, he can inculcate the next generation of referees from his country

Callard's first two penalty goals, against Wilson's three misses, gave England their 6-0 interval lead. Tony Underwood will know he should have scored, despite Timu's magnificent cover tackle, the

**NEW ZEALAND:** J K R Timu (Otago), J W Wilson (Otago), F E Buncie (North Harbour), E Clarke (Auckland), V L Tuihamaia (Auckland), M C G Ellis (Otago), S Foster (Otago), C Dowd (Auckland), S B T Fitzpatrick (Auckland, captain), O M Brown (Auckland), J W Joseph (Otago), I O Jones (Northland), S B Gordon (Waikato), Z V Brooke (Auckland), A R B Pene (Otago)

Referee: F Burger (South Africa)

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BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

International match



**Parton:** moved into line to score after miss move

whose reputation has for many years outweighed achievement, rendered that exercise futile as they drifted through the second period.

**PLYMOUTH ALBION:** R Thompson; P Hague, M Stale, O Oakley, L Orman; M Thompson, M Troit, I Davies, K Courteney, A Wase, G Smith, C Osborne, T Chapman, M Scott, I Goltzmet.

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**SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER**

## CARDIFF ARMS PARK

Readers are invited to witness the climax of the All Blacks tour and join John Dawes OBE, the captain of the victorious 1973 side, for a friendly pint, a 4 course lunch and a choice of complimentary wines in an exclusive suite at the fabulous Cardiff International Arena. Reserved seated match tickets and a match programme are provided and following the game afternoon tea is served back in the suite. There will be a re-run of the game on the video screen and a game analysis by our experts. A fully stocked cash bar will provide the rest of the days entertainment.

TUESDAY 7th DECEMBER

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# THE UNIVERSITY MATCH OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

**TWICKENHAM**

This annual battle has always been popular with readers of *The Times* and in latter years the event has been a sell out. This year readers can meet in their own exclusive facility at the historic Stoop Memorial Ground to enjoy pre-match drinks followed by an excellent lunch accompanied by equally fine wines. They will share these pleasures with famous former Blues from both universities, including the inimitable Gerald Davies, once Captain of Cambridge and now rugby commentator of *The Times*.

Reserved seated match tickets and a match programme are provided - and following the game there is a hot supper plus complimentary bar whilst the game is re-run on the video screen. This enjoyable day out is offered exclusively to readers of The Times at £99 00. (A reduction will be made if you have already reserved your tickets).

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## WEEKEND RESULTS AND TABLES

International match		Pontypool 27 Heath		Postponed: Cwm y Hydref FP; Jed-Forest v West of Scotland; Moray v Bournemouth; Sefton v Gals, Strling County		Rugby		
England	15 New Zealand	9	Pontypool Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			Sandall	14 Orrell	8
England: Penn; Coford 4; Droppod goal; Andrew Hen. Penn; Wilson 3			Pontypool Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			Widnes	21 Duffryn	26
v2 Mackintosh			Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			Widnes	33 Waterloo	28
Pilkington Cup			Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			Liverpool 28	73 Bedford	13
Third round			Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			Orkney Univ	43 Kinsley	3
Blackheath	21 L Welsh	3	Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			Orkney Univ	17 Durnham Univ	16
Birmingham	13 Broughton P	3	Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			Cancelled: Kendal v Tyndale; Middlesbrough v Rotherham; Newcastle v Wigan v Huddersfield.		
Cardiff	12 Cardiff	12	Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			PILKINGTON SHIELD: Fourth round: London and South-East; East Wanderers		
Cotton	10 Preston	12	Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			22, World Wanderers 12; Ditching 7, Old		
Cowley	10 Fido G	12	Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			12, London Wanderers 25; Hayes 12, Palace Park		
Havant	12 Cambridge	12	Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			24, World Hospital 19; 24, Bournemouth		
Leamington	12 Walsley	12	Swansea Times; Marley 2; Con. Jnr. 2			24, Bournemouth 12; Battersea Wanderers 12		
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## Haka drowned as Twickenham voices home comfort

# Wilson's wizardry loses its spell

Simon Barnes sees the All Blacks all-rounder overstretched by the burden of place-kicking duties against England

When sides are as precisely balanced as this, it takes tiny things, irrelevant things, mere feathers to tip the balance one way or another. In as fine a contest as the match between England and the All Blacks, minute, almost nugatory, matters assume a brief, vast significance.

Let us start with the haka. That piece of ritual intimidation, a war dance no less, is normally worth a good three points start to New Zealand. All over the world, rugby sides have tried to find counter-measures. The Irish once advanced menacingly, an Australian side once blew kisses.

The English, despite many suggestions to do with Morris dances and the hocky-cokey, contented themselves with the 15-man glare on Saturday. It was the crowd that did the work. The haka was drowned, not with the imposed New Twickenham anthem of "I Vow to Thee My Country" but the old one, "Chariots".

So there were about 60,000 people, the bulk of them white and middle class, all bawling the great negro slave song for all they were worth. England won the haka. It was the best of all possible starts.

And then to Wilson. Wilson of The Wizard. Jeff Wilson, 20, scorer of 17 points against Scotland last week: three gorgeous dashing tries and a well-belted, acute-angled conversion. He has also played cricket for New Zealand, of course.

A performance like this from one so young reminds me irresistibly of one of Richie Benaud's aphorisms: "He must think cricket's an easy game."

No doubt about it. Wilson can only have thought that rugby was an easy game after his personal demolition of Scotland, a golden afternoon for a golden-haired golden boy. Life should be like that. Against Scotland he looked like the most dangerous back in the world — for 80 minutes he probably was. On Saturday, he looked like a boy promoted beyond his nerve and abilities. Again, there was a featherweight moment of massive significance.

Wilson can kick all right, the Scots saw that. But this time, he had to do it all: Matthew Cooper, who had been taking on the mantle of



Wilson, the New Zealand wing, feels the strain against England. Photograph: Chris Cole/Allsport

the metronomic Grant Fox, was injured. No problem. The kid can kick.

He missed his first kick. Anybody can miss a kick, though landing the first is a powerful steadier of the nerve. Jon Callard, kicking for England, will tell you all about the relief, the self-belief

that comes from threading the first.

Then came the second. Wilson knew that to miss one penalty can be regarded as a misfortune; to miss two looks like an attack of the yips. Place the ball nicely. Smooth down the spot for your standing foot. Retreat, backwards.

Look up, look down, look up again. Oh! The ball, embarrassingly, had flopped off its apex.

Twickenham jeered. Suggested parallels with Wilson's masculinity. Routine stuff, the top-of-the-over and the banter both. But that flop of the ball seemed to shake the last

vestige of calm from Wilson. Flushed and serious, he missed again.

Leanne Mains, the New Zealand coach, said firmly afterwards, in what was a grown-up and generous press conference: "We did not lose the game on goalkeeping." Mere figures give the lie to

that. The non-wizard-like Wilson kicked three out of eight. At least three of the misses were eminently kickable. A performance of what passes as mere competence at this level would have given the All Blacks an 18-15 win.

Mains' point, though he did not choose to put it that way, was that a win for New Zealand on penalties would have been a steal. They would have stolen it from the dominant, but somehow try-less, team against the run of play.

"We lacked the urgency we had last week," Mains said. "I think the players were affected by what they were reading." I think, too, that the players were affected by what they were playing; that win against Scotland was right out of the All Blacks' grandest tradition. How do you sustain that?

Well, sustaining that has been precisely the All Blacks' secret over the years. But this time, they came out with the sneaking, unvoiced suspicion that rugby was a pretty easy game. They met a side in-

'Wilson knew that to miss one penalty can be regarded as a misfortune; to miss two looks like an attack of the yips'

spired by their unaccustomed role of underdogs. In short, the All Blacks peaked too soon and against the wrong side.

How many times have we heard that the All Blacks "seem to get stronger as the game goes on"? That translates as "the opposition are unfit". That used to be the case in most internationals but not any more. The England players these days train like professional athletes and for the best of reasons.

There was a moment of slack tide in the middle of the second half but the tide did not turn. You felt that if the match was to have a turning point, it was upon us. The match did not turn.

That was because England, taking a deep breath, replied with breathtaking defensive rugby. England left the pitch without any illusions. They did not think they were the greatest team in the world. They certainly did not think that rugby was an easy game. It must have felt like the hardest game in the world. But if you can tackle like heroes and kick the odd penalty, you can bang tough and beat anybody. Great game.

## Parker's points put Fylde firmly in control

Bradford and Bingley.....6  
Fylde.....13

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WAGON LANE, not Twickenham, had seemed the likelier venue for an upset on Saturday. The giant screen in the clubhouse was switched off at 2pm, someone managed to work the video recorder, and home supporters queued to guess by how many points their team would win.

Bradford and Bingley had already accounted for Bedford in this season's Pilkington Cup so there seemed no reason why Fylde, another club from the third division of the Courage Clubs Championships, should not suffer a similar fate in the third round.

But resourceful and canny opponents had other ideas. The Fylde philosophy is about quick ball transfer and movement into space. Yet the side is sufficiently adaptable to tighten its game when required. It helps having a scrum half who can both read the opposition and open them up. Chris O'Toole was irrepressible.

While Radacanu, the Romanian lock, supplied plenty of good lineout possession for Bradford, the ball mostly went to ground thereafter or else was hoisted to Parker, the Fylde full back, which always invited trouble.

Penalty goals by Hewitt in the opening eight minutes raised Bradford's expectations. But their line was soon under siege as O'Toole kept digging out possession, with Parker the chief beneficiary. He followed the conversion of his own try with penalty goals in each half before the shutters were brought down.

The division five (north) side found the gulf too big. But it was bridged by their near neighbours Wharfedale, unbeaten in north (division one), who won 20-0 at fourth-division Sheffield, all the points, coming in the second half. The brothers Harrison, Glen and Michael, scored tries and Alex Haworth converted both.

Broughton Park, another fourth-division side, also fell to lower-ranked opposition, losing 13-3 at Birmingham Solihull, after having their loose-head prop, John Russell, sent off. Coventry, twice winners of the competition, beat Preston Grasshoppers 10-5 in a dour affair.

SCORES: Bradford and Bingley: Parker 2, Fylde 13; Parker Conversion; Parker Penalty goals: Parker 2.  
BRADFORD AND BINGLEY: M Coultas; D Mims; C Henneby; P Deacon; N Curran; A Crowder; D Smith; A Cople; B Stevens; A Murphy; P Wood; C Radacanu; J Downes; S Bamberidge.  
FYLDE: A Parker; B Harrison; P Seed; S Gough; D Collins; J Barclay; G O'Toole; C O'Neill; M Dwyer; M Hays; G Russell; P O'Neill; John Taylor; I Ashton; Mike Taylor; R Eyles; E Hanley; R Eyles; E Hanley.  
Referee: A Sparks (Warwickshire).

## Northern stage late rally to account for Leeds

Bradford Northern.....36  
Leeds.....28

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FEW rugby league encounters of such distinction yield ten tries and the levels of excellence sustained by both sides before Bradford Northern captured the lead for a third and decisive time at Valley Parade yesterday.

A penalty was awarded against Rose for dissent 13 minutes from the finish. Fox, with the fifth of his six goals, needed no second invitation. Neither did Powell, who capped a sterling display in the second row by going through a gap for a try that left Leeds dejected.

Bradford remain unbeaten at home and moved up to second place in the first division of the Stanes Bitter championship. Twice Leeds led early on by 12 points, and by eight with 15 minutes remaining, but the home side fought back.

Leeds were a born-again side, quickly moving 12-0 ahead. Tait won the race to Holroyd's hanging kick and, for the second try, Iro took a pass from Mercer 60 yards out and dummied Watson for a fine individual score.

Bradford's response was three tries in 12 minutes. Summers found room, courtesy of Fox and Dixon, and when Tait had the ball shaken from his grasp in a tackle by Sheldford 15 yards out, Summers was again ideally placed.

In between, Holroyd landed the third of his six goals but Summers' neat dab sat up perfectly for Sheldford and, at 18-14 down, Leeds could well have given up.

Yet they began the second-half well. Hanley was hauled down after a stoop run but managed to lob out a scoring pass to Iro. Donohue made a good impression on his debut at scrum half. His incisiveness alongside Holroyd allowed Tait to send in Fallon.

Still it was not enough. Cordle finished a tremendous break by McGowan down the right and Dixon drove over from short range to give Bradford a 28-26 advantage. Holroyd, briefly, drew the sides level but Rose's flash of temper and tiredness conspired, somewhat cruelly, against Leeds.

SCORES: Bradford Northern: Tries: Summers 3, Sheldford, Cordle, Donohue; Goals: Fox 6; Leeds: Tries: Iro 2, Tait, Fallon; Goals: Holroyd 6.  
BRADFORD NORTHERN: D Watson; G Cordle; O Sheldford; P Newing; Sub: S McGowan; S Smith; N Summers; O Fox; D Hazle; Sub: Dixon, 40; T Gory; J Hanley; R Powell; P Dixon; Sub: P Madley; 40; A Farbrake.  
LEEDS: A Tait; J Fallon; K Iro; C Smith; Sub: Scott, 60; S Irving; Sub: M Vassilakopoulos; 27; G Holroyd; J Donohue; G Rose; J Lowe; I Scott; Sub: N Barry, 39; G Mercer; R Eyles; E Hanley; Referee: J Smith.

## First among equals for England

As they clustered round the bar of their clubhouse on Saturday night, the mighty men of Chipping Sodbury RFC probably had little idea of the part they had played in the All Blacks downfall. Maybe some had a dim recollection of a Jonathan Callard gracing their fields for the Bath third XV two years ago.

Callard remembers the low point of his rugby career all too well and the joy with which he greeted his first points in his international career was as much a celebration of revival as relief. Gratitude to family and friends, a resolve hardened on unlovely afternoons in west country backwaters, fear of failure, a snatch of prayer, a touch of hope and, in the end, a well-honed technique.

Everything combined to lift the Bath full back's first wavering kick between the posts and set England on their way to a victory that has overturned rugby's accepted order of merit.

"It wobbled and bobbed a bit," Callard admitted. "But I just knew it had to go over. I'd taken some heavy criticism about my kicking during the week and that brought a fear of failing. It was just a question of overcoming it."

"I had a lot to prove to myself and I don't like to let people down, players, family anybody. We were just beginning to get the upper hand. You could see the bounce in the forwards' step when it went over."

With his nerves calmed, three more kicks sailed over. But if Callard, 28 on New Year's day, relied on a lifetime of experience to claim his moment of glory, Kyran Bracken had only natural jauntness and a breathtaking naivete for support as he ended the week of his 22nd

birthday with an England cap. His last visit to Twickenham had been for Bristol Polytechnic in the British Polytechnics Sports Association final. Hardly a stepping-stone towards the All Blacks.

Yet midway through the second half, in one of the few interludes when he was not being mummified by the England physio, Bracken broke into a huddle of veteran forwards to lay down the law. Dean Richards, Ben Clarke, Brian Moore, British Lions, desperados, the backbone of the England side being lectured by a boy with the innocent curls and slender frame of Ryan Giggs.

Andrew Longmore looks at the way two newcomers contributed to a glorious win over the All Blacks

If any one vision epitomised a 15-man magnificence, it was not the narrow-eyed scowl of Brian Moore nor the bald scalp of Nigel Redman emerging time and again from ruck and lineout with ball in hand, but the limping, hobbling scrum half, who survived a wicked introduction to international rugby

from Joseph's studs to play with such startling confidence that even grizzled old campaigners were enthused by the spirit of youth.

Having begun the match with his left knee strapped after a training injury, Bracken thought his debut had ended inside a minute when his right ankle was trampled on by the All Black flanker.

"It seemed my world had come to an end," he said when he emerged from the dressing-room on crutches. "I really thought I would have to come off. Pure adrenalin kept me going."

Nor did he try to gloss over

the incident. As if the presence of Phil de Glanville in the England centre was not enough of a reminder, the All Blacks stand accused once again.

"They are very good at following through tackles," Bracken said. "The ball was well gone who one of their players came through and just stepped on my ankle."

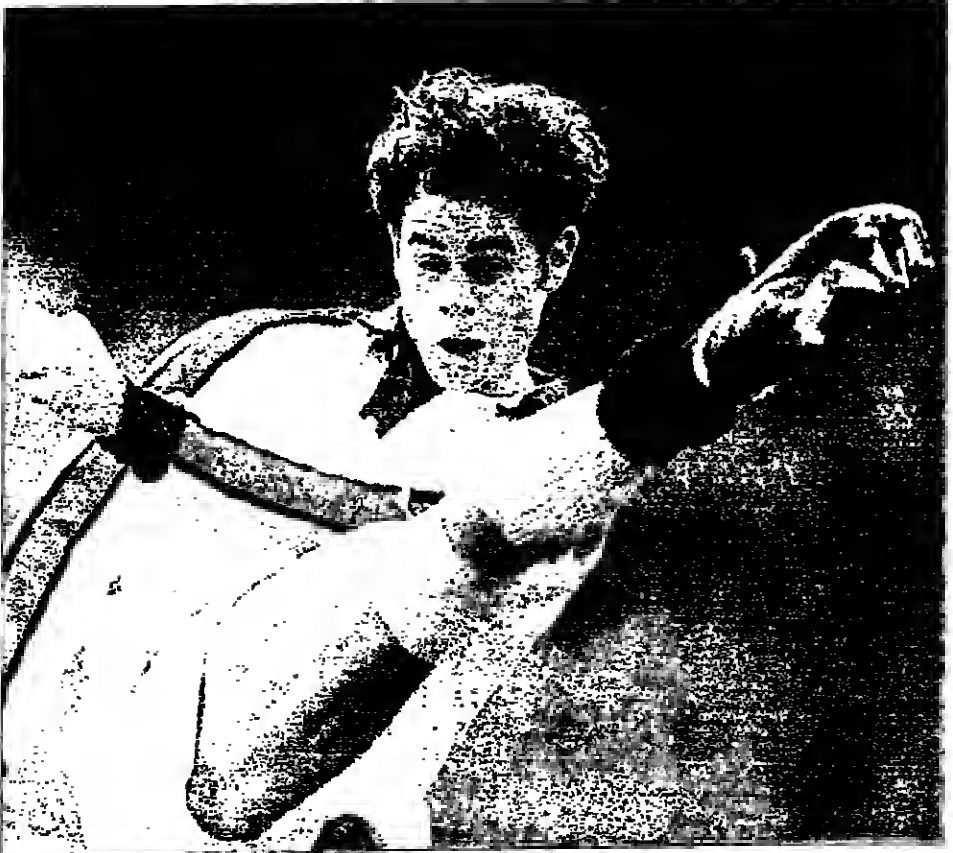
At half-time, Bracken lay on the Twickenham turf, both boots off, his left foot suffering a severe strain, his right being swathed in bandages. It was a scene from M.A.S.H. But he was not going to be rushed.

As the All Blacks lined up for the second half, Bracken made them wait while he casually tied his bootlaces, a gesture of unflinching defiance that must have persuaded a strange magic was at work in the England side.

Nothing, other than a disturbing click in his right ankle, seemed to put Bracken out of his stride. "I know it's illogical but I feel more nervous playing for Bristol than I did today. I play well under pressure."

Bracken's summary of the day — "one bad kick, one missed tackle, quite a pleasing debut" — was modest in the extreme. He will, he feels, be back in the shadow of Dewi Morris for England's opening match in the home internationals, against Scotland at Murrayfield, and will be as generous in standing down as Morris was earlier in the week.

"I'm quite happy to sit on the bench. That was my goal for this season anyway." Like Callard, the Downside schoolmaster whose rise to All Black conqueror will give heart to every third-team stalwart, like England, he has already surpassed every expectation.



Bracken puts plenty of weight behind an attacking kick on his debut for England against New Zealand at Twickenham. Photograph: Chris Cole/Allsport

## Llanelli captain leaves hospital

EMYR Lewis, the Wales No 8, has been discharged from hospital in Newport after undergoing X-rays and tests on a neck injury. The Llanelli captain was trapped at the bottom of a maul during his club's 20-9 win at Pontypool on Saturday.

The game was held up for nearly ten minutes while Lewis, who said he had no feeling in his hands, had his neck put in a brace before being carried off on a stretcher.

A hospital spokesman said Lewis should not experience any lasting problems.

Neath lost their first match of the season and their place at the head of the Heineken League when they went down 27-12 at Pontypriid.

The first division's leading scorer, Neil Jenkins, scored 17 of Pontypriid's points, with a conversion of one of David Manley's two tries and five penalty goals.

Swansea too over first place with a 26-6 win over Newbridge, late tries from Robert Jones and Ian Davies ending brave resistance by the visitors. Cardiff took their total of tries to 56 during their 17-3 success at Aberavon while Cross Keys lost their eleventh match of the season, 30-0 at Bridgend.

Dylan Mika, the Auckland flanker, was sent off for stamping on Chris Oti, the England wing, in the New Zealand provincial champions' final match of their tour, at Sudbury, yesterday. The incident was not seen by Charles Muir, the referee, but was spotted by a linesman.

Despite being reduced to 14 men, Auckland hung on to beat Wasps 28-25.

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# World champion struggles in final of UK snooker championship

## O'Sullivan closes on first major title



O'Sullivan: inspired

By PHIL YATES

RONNIE O'Sullivan was only four frames away from becoming the youngest snooker player to win a world ranking event when he led Stephen Hendry 6-2 after the opening session of Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship final in Preston yesterday.

O'Sullivan, who celebrates his eighteenth birthday on Sunday, was on course to collect the £70,000 first prize and surpass Hendry's achievement in capturing the Rothmans Grand Prix title in October 1987 at the age of 18 years and nine months.

Although O'Sullivan has a string of records to his name and arrived at the tournament on a high, following his triumph in the Benson and Hedges championship three weeks ago, only the most optimistic of his supporters could have expected him to perform

with such maturity at the Guild Hall. To reach the final he had to beat Alan McManus, the provisional world No 3, Ken Doherty, the season's leading prize-money winner, and Steve Davis, UK champion on six occasions between 1980 and 1987.

Many expected that Hendry, who included an unprecedented five century breaks in his 9-3 semi-final victory over John Parrott, would ruthlessly exploit O'Sullivan's inexperience. But although he made a few more mistakes than normal in the first session, it would be grossly inaccurate to say that he played badly. It was just that O'Sullivan seemed to revel in the atmosphere of a major final.

Hendry opened the scoring in the first frame but, in an indication of what was to follow, O'Sullivan confidently cleared with a run of 78. Hendry was unfortunate in the next when, on 23, he split the pack after potting a blue, only

to inadvertently pot a red. O'Sullivan combined incisive potting with pinpoint positional play to compile a 103 break from the resultant scoring opportunity. Hendry responded with a run of 132 in the third, his tenth century break of the championship, which equalled his own record for a ranking event, set at the International Open in Plymouth seven months ago.

It seemed a turning point might have arrived in the fourth frame when O'Sullivan, who was beaten 6-2 by Hendry in the semi-finals of last month's Dubai Classic, missed the blue to a bank pocket for 3-1 and the Scot cleared up to win on the black.

O'Sullivan, who had insisted that he had treated Hendry with too much respect in Dubai, was determined not to be overawed again. He regained the lead with a break of 121 and increased it to 4-2 by winning the sixth on the black, after Hendry surprisingly

missed the pink. O'Sullivan recovered from a 35-0 deficit in the next, thanks largely to a late run of 52, before adding the last frame of the afternoon after Hendry, 33-15 ahead, had allowed him in for a run of 44 by missing a relatively straightforward brown.

O'Sullivan, a keen student of all aspects of the game, was well aware of Hendry's famed powers of recovery. In the final of the 1991 Benson and Hedges Masters, the Scot fought back from 7-0 and 8-2 down to edge out Mike Hallett 9-8.

Last year, Hendry won ten successive frames as he rallied from 14-8 to beat Jimmy White 18-14 in the final of the world championship.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: S. Hendry (Scot) vs J. Parrott (Eng), 9-3. Frame scores (Hendry first): 107-2, 49-65, 114-12, 109-4, 128-0, 101-0, 72-16, 124-11, 107-8, 43-61, 68-18, 67-40, 107-8 (Hendry) vs O. Morgan (Wales), 9-5. Frame scores (O'Sullivan first): 125-0, 70-1, 73-81, 66-3, 30-73, 114-0, 22-75, 20-81, 86-37, 78-1, 67-22, 46-67, 47-61, 118-0. Final: O'Sullivan leads Hendry 5-2. Frame scores (O'Sullivan first): 78-45, 108-23, 8-132, 64-73, 123-0, 61-60, 85-35, 7-32.

### SPORT IN BRIEF

## Devils find it hot work in Sheffield

CARDIFF Devils were beaten for the third time this season on Saturday, going down 6-4 at Sheffield in a game which was a first-rate advertisement for British ice hockey and was played before an enthusiastic, capacity crowd (Norman de Mesquita writes).

The Steelers edged each of the first two periods by the odd goal in three and the teams shared four goals in the final period in a match in which there were only seven minor penalties. Tim Cranston netted three goals for Sheffield while Ian Cooper scored to celebrate his return for the Devils after a knee injury.

There were two surprise premier division results in the south of England as Basingstoke Beavers and Bracknell Bees gained draws against Scottish opposition in the shape of Murrayfield Racers, who were 5-3 down after the first period in Basingstoke, and Fife Flyers.

## England fall short

SQUASH: England's world team championship ambition will end at best with a bronze medal as Australia, the champions, and Pakistan, the host nation, contest the leading honours in Karachi today. In the semi-final against Pakistan, Peter Marshall, England's double-handed first string, extended Jansher Khan, the world champion, before going down 9-4, 9-10, 9-2, 9-1 in 84 minutes.

Chris Walker, the No 2, gave England a sniff of victory with an 88-minute 9-5, 9-1, 7-9, 5-9, 9-5 win over Zarak Jahan, but Philip Whitlock, the captain, lost to Jahangir Khan after some astute and enterprising play had earned him a 5-3 lead in the first game.

## Missile hits Arthurton

CRICKET: Keith Arthurton, of the West Indies, needed medical attention after a firecracker, thrown from the crowd, exploded in his face while he was fielding on the boundary during the final of the Bengal diamond jubilee tournament in Calcutta. Arthurton was well enough to bat later but was quickly dismissed by Kapil Dev as India won by 102 runs. India's total of 225 for seven proved more than sufficient as Anil Kumble, their leg spinner, produced panic in the West Indian ranks, taking six for 12 in 37 deliveries, the best figures by an Indian player in one-day internationals.

## Faxon ends sequence

GOLF: Brad Faxon, of the United States, injected a vital ingredient into his season at the Metropolitan Club in Melbourne yesterday: he won, becoming the Heineken Australian Open champion and leaving behind 15 frustrating months without a victory. Faxon, 23, has won four times in the United States but rated this as "probably" his biggest win. Faxon, who collected £72,000 after finishing with a final round of 70 for a total of 275, 13 under par, was two clear of his playing partner, Jeff Woodland, and another Australian, Michael Clayton.

## Snow's title by default

REAL TENNIS: Julian Snow, the British No 1, won the George Wimpey British Open championship at Queen's Club yesterday by default after his opponent, the favourite, Robert Fahey, of Australia, had to retire at the start of the second set with a pulled muscle. Fahey, who had fought back from 4-1 down to take the first set after some high-quality tennis, had looked sharp and eager while Snow had rediscovered his form after a mediocre run. The injury robbed the packed gallery of an enthralling tussle and also denied Fahey the final leg of the grand slam.

## Record for Brookfield

YACHTING: Brookfield, the Italian 60-footer skippered by Guido Masetti, became the sixth yacht to claim a record 24-hour run in the Whitbread Round the World Race in the Southern Ocean. Brookfield travelled 394.4 miles between 8pm on Friday and Saturday. On Saturday, Lawrence Smith's Intrum Justitia led the 60-foot fleet past Prince Edward Island, the halfway mark on the 7,500-mile second leg from Punta del Este, Uruguay, to Fremantle, Australia, only 15 minutes ahead of Tokyo. By yesterday, Intrum had cut New Zealand Endeavour's overall lead to 44 miles.

### Times/Olivetti Corporate Challenge

## Champagne flows at storybook end

FROM MEL WEBB IN LA MANGA

THERE are winners and there are losers in golf tournaments, there are celebrations and commiserations, but it is not often that victory is followed, as it was here yesterday, by a proposal of marriage.

Before his team, Hall and Coaker, hit their first ball in the national final of The Times Olivetti Corporate Golf Challenge on Saturday, Darren Allard promised Sally Hood, his girl friend, that if he was in the winning team he would propose on the 18th green.

He made the promise in front of witnesses, too, so when the building firm from East Grinstead, in Sussex, won the competition by the handsome margin of ten points yesterday, there was no excuse but to go down on one knee and pop the question. It would have been an awful anti-climax if she had turned him down.

Fortunately for Allard and every other hopeless romantic in the crowd, she said yes. Champagne flowed and more than the odd eye was wiped.

The victory was something of a fairy story in itself. The five finalists in this, the inaugural year of the first golf competition in the United Kingdom aimed specifically at the business community, contained some pretty high-profile companies, and right seriously they took their golf during the 36-hole final on the celebrated South Course at La Manga.

Danny Hall and Andy Coaker, who employ about 70 craftsmen in their contract bricklaying firm, as well as

forming half of their team, would have none of that. And while some of their opponents were huffing and puffing their way around and getting increasingly frustrated, they and their team-mates, Andy McClelland, the company's contracts manager, and Allard, the team's guest player, smiled and joked their way to a victory that was as heart-warming as it was comprehensive. They were the Davids of the competition, and the beleaguered and battered Goliaths all round them were left wondering what had hit them.

They won with a total of 164 Stableford points, ten ahead of

fourth round running. At that stage, the only real threat was coming from BF, who had trailed by three points overnight. However, Hall and Coaker knew by now that they had easily negotiated the perils of the very much tougher front nine and, duly relaxed, they registered a further 43 points to finish on 83, the highest total of the final.

The four men all played their part in what was essentially a team victory but just as Allard, a nine-handicap member of West Melling in Kent, had led the individual scoring on the first day with 36 points, so McClelland, who plays off 17 at Leatherhead, was the team's best scorer yesterday with 38. "It's been a memorable experience," McClelland said, as the sweetness of triumph was still sinking in among the congratulations and the popped corks. "They made us feel special."

Twice on the back nine they had six-point holes and, by the time they came to the last, they already had the competition won. Five more points were scored there, though, and the scene was set for a sentimental conclusion to the day.

Allard asked for his lady's hand, she accepted and the pair were warmly applauded. All that was lacking were the hearts and flowers and a full string orchestra. The way they do things at La Manga, they could have even have arranged that if they had been given a couple of hours' notice.

FINAL SCORES: 164: Hall and Coaker, 81, 83, 146; BF, 80, 121, 78, 149; Andy Coaker, 77, 72, 146; Andy McClelland, 38, 74, 112; Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association, 51, 74.



BF Oil in second place. Allied Dunbar were third on 149, three points ahead of Clerical Medical Investment Group, with the Northern Ireland Civil Service Sports Association, who never lived up to their considerable potential, fifth on 127.

The scene was set for a tight finish after the first day's play on a sunny Saturday, after which a mere seven points separated the four leading teams. The weather took a turn for the worse yesterday, but it might just as well have been the middle of July for Hall and Coaker, who in making 40 points to the turn improved their score for the



Allard and Coaker line up a putt on their way to victory at La Manga

## Teddington slow on draw

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

PHILLIP McGuire converted a penalty stroke in the last minute to enable Teddington to force a 1-1 draw with Old Loughlionians in the Pizza Express National Hockey League at the Lensbury Club yesterday.

Teddington had more possession in the second half and forced five short corners, from which two shots by Billson and one by McGuire were well saved by Seaton, the Loughlionians goalkeeper and captain.

After an evenly fought first half, Loughlionians forged ahead in the fifth minute when Barker converted their fourth short corner with a direct hit. They held out well under mounting pressure from Teddington until Halls

halted in their tracks by Canterbury, who held them to a goalless draw.

The plight of St Albans worsened with the 4-0 defeat at home by Reading. Goldring, Howard Hoskin, Keovil and Mark Hoskin were the scorers.

Ipswich hammered home their intention to retain the women's premier division title with a 4-1 victory over the leaders, Leicester, a win that put them into second place, two points from the top (Alix Ramsay writes).

Leicester, unbeaten in six matches and five points clear, were overwhelmed by a rejuvenated Ipswich side. Bamford (2), Fry and Lister scored for Ipswich before Blanks replied for Leicester.

Southgate were held to a 1-1 draw by Indian Gymkhana, who took the lead in the sixth minute with a goal by Bhauru. Waugh equalised for Southgate from a short corner in the 28th minute.

Havant relinquished the lead Williams had given them in the seventh minute when Purchase levelled the score for Firebrands from a short corner six minutes later to earn a 1-1 draw. Cannock were also

## Mader glides to giant victory

FROM DAVID MILLER IN SALT LAKE CITY

THERE are few competitors in any sport who do not place an Olympic gold medal above all other achievements. Gunther Mader, the 29-year-old Austrian all-rounder, was hesitant on Saturday. An Olympic medal, Mader reflected, is after all, just one race.

Austria remains as anxious as ever to wrest the glory from their alpine neighbours in Italy, Switzerland, France and Germany. Mader, fifth in the opening giant slalom event in Sölden on October 30, and now taking, by a breathless two hundredths of a second margin, the Salt Lake City slalom, has begun as well as he left off in the 1992-93 season, when he was fourth in the overall World Cup.

It was a bitter-sweet moment for Alberto Tomba, of

Italy, the only man to retain an Olympic title with the giant slalom in Albertville last year. He had won both the slalom and giant slalom here in 1991. He swept down Willy's Run to overhaul Kjetil Aamodt, of Norway, and Franck Piccard, of France. In the immediately preceding runs, they had each taken the lead. Now, Tomba led by a tenth of a second in the first of the weekend's events worth \$100,000 (about £66,000).

At the halfway stage of his second run, Mader, an expert downhill glider, was half a second outside Tomba's time but, over the final stretch, his gliding skills took him in front by a tiny margin.

Last year, Mader had decided to break with the official Austrian team and work with

his own coach. Now, he is back under the team umbrella but still has to qualify for Olympic selection in any of the four events: so the downhill is not necessarily his priority.

"I hope I can keep in good shape but we have so many good skiers I cannot be certain of qualifying for the Olympics," he said.

Antia Wachter, of Austria, tightened her grip on the women's World Cup championship over the weekend by finishing second in two races in Santa Caterina, Italy. Wachter won the first two races of the year and is 85 points ahead of second-placed Vreni Schneider, of Switzerland, in the championship battle.

Results, page 30

**12.10 BELFRY CONDITIONS STAKES**  
(Div 1: £3,143.1m) (8 runners)

1	1110	BELMOREDEAN 20U (G.F.B.) R O'Sullivan 5-9-8	0 Days 6
2	2030	LOCHORE 16U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 3-4-4	0 Tackler 3
3	1	MIDNIGHT JAZZ 20U (G.F.B.) W O'Sullivan 5-9-8	0 Days 6

GOING: STANDARD  
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE NUMBERS BEST

**12.40 GLENABLES MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES**  
(£2,049.1m) (7)

1	03	BALATTA BAY 19 R Morgan 5-0	Paul Elliott 5
2	0004	CLASSICAL 19 R Morgan 5-0	0 Days 6
3	2040	PRINCE DANCER 19 R Morgan 5-0	0 Days 6
4	442	ROYAL GUEST 13 P Cole 5-0	0 Days 6
5	0001	DAILY SPORT CLUB 21 P Cole 5-0	0 Days 6
6	0045	ROSE OF GLEN 16 R Morgan 5-0	0 Days 6
7	522	ST LOUIS LADY 7 (G.F.B.) W Jones 5-0	0 Days 6

**1.10 WENTWORTH NURSERY HANDICAP**  
(£3,389.5m) (9)

1	1008	DANCE FOCUS 25 (G.F.B.) W O'Sullivan 5-7	Emma O'Sullivan (G) 9
2	1300	HELLO MASTER 46 (G.F.B.) J O'Donoghue 8-12	P McClelland (G) 7
3	0301	PHONEMAN 25 (G.F.B.) J Morgan 5-11	0 Days 6
4	0412	BOLD ALICE 2 (G.F.B.) J Morgan 5-11	0 Days 6
5	0302	HOT KID 13 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-7	0 Days 6
6	0000	NORRICO PRINCESS 7 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-7	0 Days 6
7	4002	RANDOM 25 C Jones 7-12	0 Days 6
8	5521	SALTIE 25 (G.F.B.) J Morgan 5-7	0 Days 6
9	5453	WARWICK WARRIOR 19 P Morgan 7-7	0 Days 6

**1.40 ST ANDREW'S HANDICAP**  
(£3,552.1m) (14)

1	0001	SWORD MASTER 26 (G.F.B.) R Jones 4-10-7	M Morgan 5
2	1046	RAPPORTUR 19 (G.F.B.) C Gray 7-8-13	0 Days 6
3	2031	CRATHAM ISLAND 7 (G.F.B.) C Gray 7-8-13	0 Days 6
4	0330	CAMDEN'S RANSOM 19 (G.F.B.) D Marks 5-9-8	0 Days 6
5	0-20	MAUSE (17) (G.F.B.) D Marks 5-9-8	0 Days 6
6	5100	TICKETTY'S GIFT 49 (G.F.B.) D Marks 5-9-8	0 Days 6
7	0302	ROSE ELEGANT 7 (G.F.B.) C O'Neill 4-8-13	0 Days 6
8	1100	BRECKENRIDER 19 (G.F.B.) W Morgan 5-11	0 Days 6
9	1001	CASPIAN BELUGA 16 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-7	0 Days 6
10	2015	CARLEWITZ 275 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-7	0 Days 6
11	0302	OUR DICK 13 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-7	0 Days 6
12	6301	ANN HILL 9 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-7	0 Days 6
13	0050	RISING WOLF 19 R O'Sullivan 5-7	0 Days 6
14	4400	SARAH 16 (G.F.B.) C Morgan 7-7	0 Days 6

**2.10 ROYAL ST GEORGE'S HANDICAP**  
(£2,162.2m) (14)

1	400	QUANTUM 55 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 4-10-0	A Taylor 7
2	335	SCOTCH 41U (G.F.B.) R O'Sullivan 7-4-4	0 Days 6
3	70	JURIN 12U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
4	0008	SCOTCH 41U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
5	0001	BORN 21 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
6	2102	PE WATCH 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
7	2032	ARROW 17U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
8	0151	ON ZEVA 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
9	3020	REAR 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
10	5540	EMERY 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
11	4-40	CONE LANE 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
12	55-4	BY FAR 34U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
13	14	5505	CANDIDELA 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3
14	14	5505	CANDIDELA 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3

GOING: STANDARD  
DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE NUMBERS BEST

11-4 Heat, 4-1 For Hatch, 9-2 Dine, 6-1 Ace Wright, 7-1 Hatch For Glory, 10-1  
 Stork, 12-1 Monaghan, 1-1 C. Z. Crandall, 2-1 2nd place.

2.40 BELFRY CONDITIONS STAKES

(Div 1: £3,143.1m) (7)

1	5301	BEVERLY ROBERT 18 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
2	1000	STYLISH 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
3	1-5	402 402 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
4	000	OF THE BAY 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
5	0-40	CONE LANE 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
6	000	WOT 18U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
7	1000	HARVEST ROSE 32 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6

**3.10 WALTON HEATH LIMITED STAKES**  
(£2,127.7m) (16)

1	1003	BRANDY 17 (J.D.S.) C Britain 5-9-0	0 Days 6
2	0003	LEIGHMONT 17 (J.D.S.) M W Macaulay 7-9-0	0 Days 6
3	410	PREDICTABLE 16 (J.D.S.) M A Knight 1-9-0	0 Days 6
4	0011	SENSE OF PROPRITY 8 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
5	4432	ZEBRON 18 (J.D.S.) W Mar 7-9-0	0 Days 6
6	3020	CALIBAN 18 (J.D.S.) W G M Yarns 3-12	0 Days 6
7	0-45	402 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
8	3320	KNOWLEDGE 48 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
9	0044	MARIN'S CLUB 19 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
10	3441	MISTY 17 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
11	6300	PERFORM 18 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
12	100	SALVAGE OF CREDIT 14 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
13	4300	STEVES WONDER 18 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
14	0016	UAM CANTON 18 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6
15	2420	MADONNA 18 (J.D.S.) M B Eastley 4-9-0	0 Days 6

**3.40 SUNNINGDALE APPRENTICE HANDICAP**  
(£1,987.5m) (10)

1	2042	VERY DANCY 25 (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
2	0000	THE INSTITUTE 17U (G.F.B.) R Morgan 5-9-3	0 Days 6
3	0000	PA	











# New Zealanders left bemused by May's artistry

FROM PETER ROEBUCK IN HOBART

AS HAD seemed inevitable ever since their demoralised play in the opening hours of this match, New Zealand are doomed to defeat here in the second Test of the series.

They barely managed to avoid the humiliation of being beaten in three days. Having resumed yesterday at 81 for two in reply to Australia's 544 for six declared, they lost their last eight wickets for 80 runs on an entirely blameless pitch. Asked to bat again, they duly fell apart a second time, reaching the close at 127 for five, still 256 runs adrift with only the resolute Blair left of the batsmen.

It was Tim May's day, for he took six wickets during his course, more than Warner, his spin accomplice. Quite a change has come over May in the last 12 months. Bowling a brand of spin scorned down under until the 1980s, the opinion being that only wrist spin could defeat a batsman whose feet had not been dented together himself into a bowler who disdains humdrum percentages.

May is, nowadays, a master of flight, dip, slide and curve, and it was all too much for New Zealand's batsmen. He started the rot by persuading Rutherford to edge an ordinary delivery to slip where Taylor snaffled it, as he usually does. If May turned a ball sharply all day I did not see it, but as Wilfred Rhodes once put it: "If they think it's spinning, it's spinning."

Soon afterwards Jones, a

toughened cricketer in a team of novices (Rutherford's men have only 174 caps between them) edged a splendid arm ball to Healy who juggled before grabbing what was a straightforward catch.

To lose both senior batsmen so early was a bitter blow, for it brought together Patel and Harris, not a pair a fellow would choose to bat for his life. Predictably their partnership did not last long. Harris being brilliantly taken at silly point off another delivery that did not deviate noticeably.

Patel was the solitary victim of a ripping ball as Warner, hitherto the lesser of two terrors, pitched a leg break to perfection to provide slip with another catch.

If Patel is uncomfortable at five, Suru is surely flattered at eight and though he struck a couple of blows he was gone before lunch, edging a drive to Taylor. Afterwards, Morrison scored his seventeenth duck in 31 Tests, and became the sixth successive batsman to be caught within a yard of the bat. It all had a familiar ring.

Between them, Rutherford's

team average 18 in Test cricket so their total of 161 was only 19 under par.

Greatbatch immediately fell in the second innings, edging as he drove a half-volley without moving his feet. This hinted at capitulation, and when Jones was caught by Border at square leg as he hooked a bumper from Mark Waugh, the end seemed nigh. Jones may have been unlucky because the previous ball had appeared above shoulder height. Had it been so called, Waugh might not have produced a second bounce that arrived at around shoulder height. Even so, Jones fell into an obvious trap.

Pocock, who battled for two hours, and Rutherford offered some resistance and pleased a crowd of around 4,000. Eventually Pocock was beaten and stranded by a fine leg break and Rutherford bowled behind his pads as he swept, ending a breezy innings. Finally Patel was left before he was swept at May.

Overall, the umpiring has been satisfactory and, in any case, the gulf between the sides has been big enough to render irrelevant all observations about it.

The loss of Boon, the local hero, in the second over on Saturday did nothing to slow Australia's race towards a declaration. 141 runs coming in the morning session with Mark Waugh stroking the last ball before lunch to the cover boundary to reach his fifth Test match century.

New Zealand has their best period of the match by taking three wickets for 17 runs in the first half-an-hour of the afternoon session. Waugh being first to go, having scored 111 and added 150 in 132 minutes with Border, who had made 60 when he was deceived by Morrison's slower ball.

Healy fell cheaply leaving Steve Waugh and Reifel to add another 42 before Border's declaration.

When New Zealand batted, Greatbatch and Pocock went cheaply, although the latter lunged on for 92 minutes. Rutherford and Jones, the main batting hopes, both experienced sufficient problems to give more than half at the difficulties which lay ahead.



Pinsent punishes himself on the ergometer in a vain attempt to achieve the world championships qualifying time at Bracknell on Saturday

## Dry run puts rowers all in same boat

Suspend disbelief for a moment and imagine a football without a pitch, tennis without a court. Take it a stage further and try to envisage rowing, not only without a river but short, too, of Pimm's in plastic cups, blazers and boaters, the accoutrements that constitute, for many, more than half the attraction of the sport.

Then take away the oars and the hi-tech boats, transport your mind from the towpaths of the Thames at Henley or the Isis at Oxford to a sports centre on the outskirts of Bracknell, in Berkshire, in the depths of winter and you have got it: the British indoor rowing championships.

But this is no flight of fancy. Indoor rowing is "massive" in the United States. They have 25 satellite regattas leading up to the big jamboree, the world championships, which, next year, take place in Boston in February. On Saturday, Britain staged its own version five or six steps down from Twickenham on the Waterloo to Reading line. Most of the sports fans crowding the train did not make it to Bracknell.

There was no charge for admission which was probably just as well because there were hardly any spectators. The rows of seats were well-populated, but only with competitors in various stages of recovery from their exertions. Below them, the arena was thick with ergometers, the rowing machines that dominate the sport's training regimens and on which the championships were played out. The competitors sat on their sliding seats, hauling the handle on a pulley which doubles for an ear up to their chests, then letting the weight pull them back down low towards the machine, before dragging it up again.

Their eyes were fixed on a computer screen and the pointed images jerking down eight imaginary lanes. Observers clustered round more screens placed around the arena. The harder, the steadier, the stronger the rowers pulled, the quicker the image of their "boat" moved towards the digital finish line, edging ahead of or falling behind those propelled by rivals a few feet away from them.

Oliver Holt watches an outdoor sport indoors but finds that the participants still push themselves to the limit

"The endurance and the power you need for erging are the same as for outdoor rowing," Steve Redgrave, triple Olympic gold medal-winner, who won the world indoor title in 1991 and helped his Leander club win the team event on Saturday, said. "But when you get out on the water, you have got to be able to balance the boat, move with it. A lot of people who are very good at erging may never have been in a boat."

At first the event seemed a little esoteric, a spectacle only for the initiated, a fitness fix for the lean bodies who strided round the gym, munching Power Bars and Peak Bars and inhaling Maxin, which was touted as "the ultimate complex carbohydrate food and drink mix". T-shirts with slogans like "Bump or Die"

emblazoned on them were de rigueur.

But as the competition intensified, it became compulsive viewing. The presence of rowing luminaries like Redgrave and his partner in the Barcelona Olympic Games, Matthew Pinsent, helped, but the fascination stemmed, as it does in the London Marathon, from the extremes to which the competitors are prepared to push themselves.

After nine or ten minutes flat out on an ergometer, the time taken to cover an imaginary course of 2,500 metres, the limbs are aching, the lungs screaming for help. Time and again, oarsmen and women strained to the last to edge their boat to the finish line before collapsing by the side of their seat, gasping for breath, faces contorted into masks of agony.

Pinsent was one of the earliest victims after a stirring, but unsuccessful, attempt to crack the qualifying time for world championships. Be it in motor racing or athletics, a sportsman at the limit of his endurance is an edifying sight.

"A lot of the people here have no chance of winning their event," Annamaria Dryden, who is the lightweight indoor rowing world record holder and won a gold medal in the women's lightweight four in the outdoor world championships in Prague in September, said. "But they will be trying as hard as they can to set personal bests. They are against the clock as much as anything."

Dryden epitomised the spirit of the event. In one of the last races of the day, she had to break nine minutes to earn a free trip to the world championships, a journey her salary as an antiques dealer would not otherwise permit her to make.

She seemed to have paced herself perfectly, hitting her targets as each 250 metres passed by. But her stroke-rate slipped agonisingly in the final stretch and she finished 15 seconds outside the time, her disappointment concealed in pain. "That's the thing with erging," she said later. "It is just you and the machine. There's no one else to fall back on."

### SCOREBOARD FROM HOBART

AUSTRALIA: First Innings	
M A Taylor c Jones b Suru	27
M A Taylor c Jones b Suru	108
O C Brown c Jones b Suru	106
M A Taylor c Jones b Suru	12
A R Slater c Jones b Suru	60
S R Waugh not out	29
A R Slater c Jones b Suru	25
P R Rutherford not out	23
Extras (b 14, d 7, lb 3)	22
Total 161 (wickets 8, 25.6 overs)	22
T A May, B K Warner and C J McDermott did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-30, 3-35, 4-45, 5-51, 6-52	
NEW ZEALAND: First Innings	
M J Greatbatch c May b McDermott	12
B A Pocock b May b McDermott	10
A H Jones c May b McDermott	9
T A May c May b McDermott	17
N D Patel c Taylor b Warner	16
C Harris c May b McDermott	11
T A May c May b McDermott	40
M L Suru c Taylor b Warner	8
Extras (b 14, d 7, lb 3)	22
Total 161 (wickets 8, 25.6 overs)	22

### ATHLETICS

**BOLSHAKOV** France: IAAF World Championships. Men's 100m: 1. K. Collins (USA) 10.10, 2. B. Smith (USA) 10.15, 3. Y. Williams (Jamaica) 10.16, 4. M. Jones (USA) 10.21, 5. D. Williams (USA) 10.22, 6. J. Williams (USA) 10.23, 7. D. Williams (USA) 10.24, 8. J. Williams (USA) 10.25, 9. J. Williams (USA) 10.26, 10. J. Williams (USA) 10.27, 11. J. Williams (USA) 10.28, 12. J. Williams (USA) 10.29, 13. J. Williams (USA) 10.30, 14. J. Williams (USA) 10.31, 15. J. Williams (USA) 10.32, 16. J. Williams (USA) 10.33, 17. J. Williams (USA) 10.34, 18. J. Williams (USA) 10.35, 19. J. Williams (USA) 10.36, 20. J. Williams (USA) 10.37, 21. J. Williams (USA) 10.38, 22. J. Williams (USA) 10.39, 23. J. Williams (USA) 10.40, 24. J. Williams (USA) 10.41, 25. J. Williams (USA) 10.42, 26. J. Williams (USA) 10.43, 27. J. Williams (USA) 10.44, 28. J. Williams (USA) 10.45, 29. J. Williams (USA) 10.46, 30. J. Williams (USA) 10.47, 31. J. Williams (USA) 10.48, 32. J. Williams (USA) 10.49, 33. J. 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**JAZZ page 32**  
Short and sweet: as usual, Ray Charles leaves his audience begging for more

# ARTS

**BOOKS page 33**  
A posthumous volume by E.P. Thompson puts William Blake in his rightful place



## Hedda scales the heights

**Benedict Nightingale watches a great actress transfer her talents from the stage to the television screen**

One of the marks of the major actor is a willingness, even an eagerness, to rethink radically the character he or she is performing. I recall going to a preview of *The Tempest* in Stratford in which, as it seemed to me, Michael Hordern was playing the crustiest, grumpiest Prospero the British theatre could ever have seen. Picture my dismay when I read first-night reviews commending him on his sweetness and light. Was I mad, blind, or both? No, it was rather that a great actor had done a bit more exploring than usual: shifting, so to speak, from the craggy Alps to the Tuscan plains in the span of a few nights.

Fiona Shaw has a similar enthusiasm for emotional travel. Witness her performance as the title-character in Deborah Warner's production of Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* on BBC2 on Saturday night. Who would have guessed that the role would successfully take her from the Arctic icebergs to the paradisaical land of warm skies and permafrost she inhabited?

When Warner's production first surfaced, on the stage of the Abbey, Dublin, in July 1991, Shaw's performance was praised for its coldness, its bleakness, its "terrible recognition that her soul is empty". Yet that was several thousand miles away from the impression she gave in London two months later. Her Hedda was impulsive and erratic and, after months spent honeymooning abroad with the dreary Tesman, quite desperate. She was, it seemed, in the last, flailing agonies of a full-scale nervous breakdown.

It hardly needs saying that she failed and broke down very effectively indeed. Shaw's origins are Cork, not Cheam, and there is something refreshingly un-English about the intensity of her acting. I do

not know another London-based actress capable of the ravaged, feral performance she recently gave in another Warner production, Sophocles's *Electra*. Her heroine was no noble avenger. In fact, she was no heroine. She was a woman who had been terminally warped by a bitterness she had nursed for years; and an ugly sight she presented.

Her *Electra* and her Hedda were so relentless that some shied away in embarrassment or became suspicious. I have heard her called a professional runaway bus, purpose-built to career down the street and flatten pedestrians. But that was to forget the wit and style of the Portia, Beatrice and Kate she performed for the RSC in the 1980s. It is also to ignore her latest incarnation, the "young woman" in Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal* at the National.

Scene after scene invites her to send the steam fizzing from her ears. After all, the "young woman" commits murder in inarticulate protest against an oppressive world, and ends up being slowly grilled in the electric chair. There are moments, notably when her hair is being shorn in readiness for her fate, when her distress is boldly out front. But much of the time the impression is of someone valiantly suppressing strong feeling. My main memories of what I regard as the performance of 1993 are not groans, not cries, but big, stricken smiles.

That was also somewhat true of the remodelled Hedda she presented on television on Saturday night. Here was a woman desperately straining to hold herself together. In fact, here was someone trying to sustain the social niceties while feeling she was about to fall apart. When she hurried about tidying the vast, grey room in which Warner's revival was set, she was, I suppose,

neurotically trying to tidy her life. But it clearly also mattered very much to her what other people thought.

That sounds relatively superficial. Actually, it takes us to Hedda's heart, which for all her cleverness and bravado is a pretty conventional one. Never before had I realised how great was the distance between her huntress's instincts and her coward's soul. You could sense her inwardly wincing at the pettiness around her; you could see her resentment at Tesman's inability either to pamper or to stimulate her; but it never occurred to her that she might be an active rather than a passive verb, a positive instead of a negative force. "What are people going to say about you?" she said in disbelief to Brid Brennan's Thea, impressed despite herself by her old school chum's courage in leaving her husband for the glamorous Lovborg.

With Stephen Rea showing the gravity as well as the wildness of Lovborg, and Donal McCann playing a stealthy Judge Brack, the supporting cast was even stronger than on stage. But it was Shaw's evening. When the emotions emerged from behind her sophisticated, sardonic front, they really counted: a sudden shriek of horror, hands fluttering down to her stomach, when Brack talked of pregnancy; the crazy impetuosity of her burning of Lovborg's manuscript; a glimpse of the softer person she could have become had she, too, dared to love him.

Come to think of it, that's another sign of the major actor: the talent to suggest what was and what might have been, as well as what is. Shaw's Hedda was watching herself ossify in a pit she had dug, dumber into, and could not now escape; but there had been other possibilities, and she knew it only too well.



Fiona Shaw as the remodelled Hedda: a woman straining to hold herself together

**ROCK: Flamboyant guitarist Lenny Kravitz wiggles through a patchy performance at Wembley Arena**

## What a second-hand experience



Lenny Kravitz: a musical magpie in thrift shop garb

Celebrating the platinum success of his third album, *Are You Gonna Go My Way*, with five British arena shows, Lenny Kravitz entered stage right on Saturday like a man possessed, hips jammed in permanent wiggle mode and dreadlocks rising like a pit of frisky vipers.

Dressed in what appeared to be baking-foil trousers and a white feather vest, the half-Jewish half-Bahamian guitarist looked nothing if not over the top. A remarkably young and notably female audience shrieked its approval and immediately engaged in a series of self-expressive dances. Unfortunately the first half of the concert was a lifeless affair with too many of the songs sounding uncomfortably familiar. Kravitz's invariably mended, second-hand riffs invariably had one racking one's brain in order to trace their original source.

This retro charge has become something of an albatross for Kravitz but the thrift shop garb, the musical magpie tendencies and the fact that he even uses Orange amplifiers on stage (which haven't seen active service since the mid-Seventies) all add up to an open and shut case. While this might strike a 14-year-old as revolutionary the more seasoned audience members

must have been thinking: Hendrix-like.

Unusually for Wembley the sound was diamond sharp and the open standing space gave the gig an encouraging intimacy. The set's corner-stone was a 15-minute workout based around "Mamma Said" during which the six-piece band came into their own with Michael Hunter contributing a handsome trumpet solo and drummer Cindy Blackman bringing to mind the formidable work of Prince's former beatkeeper Sheila E.

Inevitably, though, 15 minutes was overdoing it, and this was Kravitz's principal crime. Far too many of his songs cried out for ruthless editing, concluding, as the majority did, with portentous guitar solos, although Kravitz doubtless believed these lengthy extemporisations were providing spiritual refreshment.

I wasn't until the encores, when Kravitz reappeared swathed in a vast fake fur coat, that he truly warmed up. The incurably catchy "Believe" and the sassy Philly soul pastiche "It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over" served as a reminder of how classy a balladeer Kravitz can be while "Are You Gonna Go My Way", replete with its

nagging central guitar motif, saw the band in full flight, tight and fiery.

Having plumped for alarmingly high platform heels, Kravitz spent most of the performance moving in a curious knock-kneed fashion that was always more pigeon-toed than duck walk. Disappointingly, despite the flamboyant apparel, Kravitz turned out to have had something of a charisma bypass, his inter-song communications being limited to monosyllabic grunts.

It wasn't until the show's climax that Kravitz shared his inexpressible homespun philosophy with us. This, it transpired, was a speech of such electrifying naivety that many of his younger fans were openly laughing. Crudely condensed it ran thus: if we all sing along to the chorus of this song then war, famine and poverty will evaporate completely.

Had he selected a song with a more memorable chorus than "Let Love Rule" he might have stood a greater chance of achieving these lofty ambitions. As it was the crowd groaned along in approximate unison but the world's ills remained defiantly untreated.

ADRIAN DEEVOY

French songs by Mozart and four pieces by Bellini received exactly the same treatment, to the extent that what had been stylishly idiomatic in the first half began to sound shallow and mannered in the second.

Bartoli is wise to limit her repertoire, but this does not mean she has to limit her study. Her Mozart needs feeding by Schubert; her Bellini needs ballast, and perhaps an ear to the piano music of the period. The encores (more and still more *aria antiche*) revealed an insatiable audience; but there is more in this voice that can satisfy at a still deeper level if only Bartoli's admirers and promoters will permit it to happen.

HILARY FINCH

*Dr Black is Reader in History*

**Huddersfield Festival**

## Music taken to the minimum

The Minimalist Marathon was not, as it unfortunately turned out, a competition for people running away from it. It was six hours of Duckworth, Pärt, Sharp, Gudmundsen-Holmgreen, Norderhoff, Piché, Siegel, Adams, Curran, Shorman, Wolfe, more Gudmundsen-Holmgreen, Rzewski, Lang, Mozetic, Truax, Montague, Riley... followed by two hours of Glass's minimalist opera *The Fall of the House of Usher*.

There were better days at the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival, above all those featuring the work of György Ligeti, whose thoughtful and meticulously crafted scores represent the antithesis of minimalism. Not all of them contain the maximum musical material but none of them is inspired by anything like the minimalist aesthetic. The two music-theatre pieces, *Aventures* and *Nouvelles Aventures*, offer the minimum of musical interest in the conventional sense.

Tearing paper, popping bags, bursting balloons, throwing cups and saucers and such activities are not intended only to amuse the percussionist, however; they are to be integrated with the dramatic implications of a wordless text written out in basically meaningless but suggestively coloured phonetics.

Hans-Werner Krösing's semi-staging for Ensemble Recherche in St Paul's Hall was stronger on confrontation than integration. The three vocalists involved — Sarah Leonard, Linda Hirst and Omar Ebrahim — all have the resources not only to react appropriately to the sounds they are asked to produce but also to stimulate reactions in each other. The happy percussionist, on the other hand, was in a world of his own.

Another memorable event in the Ligeti seventieth-birthday celebrations was the first British performance of the

current version of the Violin Concerto, which was once in three movements and is now in five. It was actually billed in the English Northern Philharmonia's programme as "UK premiere complete" but it is not entirely unlikely that "complete" will turn out in this case to be a relative term.

Certainly, the revision is not as successful as that of the Piano Concerto, which also emerged in stages and which was successfully performed by Pierre-Laurent Aimard and the Asko Ensemble the previous day. The new last movement of the Violin Concerto is convincing but rather because of its powerfully dramatic articulation and its sensational cadenza than because it answers the questions raised in the four earlier movements.

It is an extraordinarily ambitious work which attempts to combine the elements of a virtuoso concerto with a network of historical and ethnic allusions and a search for an alternative to the tempered scale — hence a first movement consisting largely of natural harmonics, the presence of ocarinas and slide-whistles, the irregularly tuned violin and viola parts, the deviations from standard pitch in brass and woodwind. It is all very confusing.

Anyway, whether the composer is happy with it or not, Saschko Gawriloff, the violinist for whom it was written, seemed to have no problems with it. Neither did Edgar Howarth and the ENP who also — at the end of a programme including Benjamin Britten's *Lightfoot* and *Wales and Wales* and Stefan Niculescu's unattractively stubborn *Canons* — delivered a brilliant first British performance of Howarth's *Macabre Collage* of orchestral highlights from Ligeti's still devastating score for *Le Grand Macabre*.

GERALD LARNER

**OPERA**

## Missing the mark

**Siroe, Re di Persia**  
Britten Theatre, RCM

showed that he can also act a bit. That he will go far is certain.

The two basses, Benjamin Fawden as Cosroe, Siroe's father, and Johann Seaverson, as Arasse, showed more

mass than subtlety: in both cases there was more than a suspicion that their vocal machines were not perfectly oiled. Janet Fairlie's Lodiace, the spurned would-be lover, also had some rough edges to it — too often she forced the voice when there was no need — while Patrick Craig, who sang the part of Siroe's stily ambitious brother Medarse, needs to develop both vocally and dramatically before he steps into the big wide world.

Denys Darlow conducted the London Handel Orchestra in a generally neat performance which sustained the momentum of the opera well, while, crucially, Laurence Cummings provided an alert harpsichord continuo.

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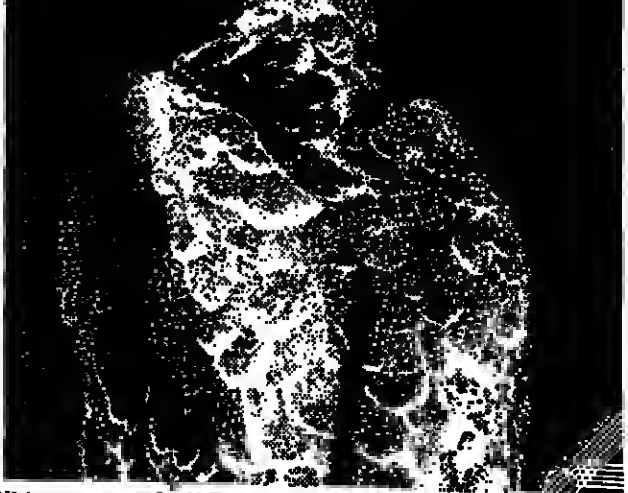
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## Lohengrin

Wagner

'Timely triumph'  
The Times



THE blindfolded boy shot his golden arrows. Amariyllis was invited to pick one up, and poor Florindo was put to the test. Few singers build an entire first half of a programme out of *aria antiche*, those ditties and arias from the more obscure operas of Scarlatti, Cesti, Caldara and Paisiello so beloved of singing teachers as exemplars of the breath and articulation at the heart of Italian song.

Songs like Caldara's "Sebben, crudele" and Caccini's "Amarilli" are old chestnuts that have warmed up rather more larynxes than one would like to remember. This is usually their sole use. Cecilia Bartoli, predictably, proved that things should be otherwise.

Her own command, at the

## New use for old chestnuts

**Bartoli/Fischer**  
Wigmore Hall

imaginative recreation of their every detail.

Cesti's "gentle, pleasant breezes" became once again a virtuoso exercise in the control and movement of musical sound through air. Both the sanguine and the melancholy assets were recreated vividly in two consecutive songs by Alessandro Scarlatti, simply by the changing focus of timbre and articulation within

her mezzo-soprano. And in "Amarilli", by the lutenist-composer Caccini, the final, delicately ornamented lines, supported by György Fischer's outstandingly sensitive accompanying, intuitively found the resonance of their own century.

The audience, of course, went wild. And the second half of the evening indicated just one drawback of this unceasing adulation. So accomplished is Bartoli and so disarming is her obvious delight in all she does that this threatens to be enough. Two

sectarian in their dynamics.

conflict mobilised far larger

Dr Black is Reader in History

doubt related concerns, such







# Keeping the Tyger burning bright

Blake's vision came from an English tradition of dissent. Peter Ackroyd finds some clues to his enigma in the late E.P. Thompson's study

There was once a William Blake who existed in the sealed room of his own visions, an outcast from the world and an exile in his own country: this was the Blake whose labyrinthine symbolic structures were explored by academics in search of myths and by "beat poets" in search of liberation.

But then another Blake emerged; he was a learned occultist and neo-Platonist who had imbibed *prisca sapientia*, the wisdom of the ages, and had impregnated his own work with various hermetic meanings. In recent years a third Blake has risen from his grave in Bunhill Fields — this is "English Blake", the radical and antinomian who is no longer a solitary thinker or prophet but the true heir to a long tradition of religious dissent. This earth-bound Blake is certainly a more convincing figure.

T.S. Eliot once suggested that Blake must forfeit any claim to greatness precisely because he had no recognisable lineage and was forced to create his own inheritance. Eliot could not have been more wrong and, in *Witness Against the Beast*, the late E.P. Thompson reconstructs the indigenous culture to which Blake was attached and which he helped to redefine.

Thompson first celebrated the return of this wholly native poet 30 years ago in his *The Making of the English Working Class*, and since then other historians have elaborated upon his general description. In this latest and posthumous volume, he suggests further lines of enquiry. His study is subtitled *William Blake and Moral Law* — which is as much to suggest that the poet was against any such thing, the "moral law" being the name given to the impersonal precepts of a state religion which encourages sanctimonious cruelty and breeds inhibitions or repression. In its place Blake proclaimed the divine truth of the Everlasting Gospel.

That radical gospel, of love and liberty against the law, has a long history; it can perhaps first be glimpsed in the apocalyptic teachings of Joachim of Fiore, but Thompson restricts his search to the traditions of this country: in the process he has uncovered a line of millenarian beliefs that remained unbroken for many hundreds of years. The Ranters, the Moravians, the Behmenists, the Adamists, the Hutchinsonians, along with many other sects, represent a

community of spiritual radicalism which had its roots deep in the English sensibility. They proclaimed that there is no sin, for God "is essentially in every creature": the Jehovah of the Bible is a most cruel demon and the commandments of both Old and New Testaments "are the fruits of the curse". The Ranters and Adamists seem to have engaged in unbridled sexual intercourse, while other small communities of believers preferred to meet in ale-houses rather than in chapels where their essential message was conveyed in songs and rhymes: "everything that lives is holy".

It is in many respects an exhilarating tradition, which might have reached Blake in several different ways, but it is so completely unlike anything we have

**WITNESS AGAINST THE BEAST**  
William Blake and the Moral Law  
By E.P. Thompson  
Cambridge, £17.95

come to call "English" that it remains mysterious. It is unnecessary to understand an indigenous culture (primarily in London) which condemned Newton as a demon and the scientific method as preposterous, which opposed every aspect of the Enlightenment and which held all social and religious authorities in contempt. These are the men and women who met at the Magpie pub in Borough, or in small rooms in Spitalfields or Islington: and, in Thompson's fascinating account, they are the silent witnesses who stand behind the writings of William Blake.

Thompson suggests, in particular, that the poet may have come from a family of Muggletonians; it is an appealing idea, since the Muggletonians were one of the kindest and most intellectually coherent of the sects, but at this late date it is not susceptible of proof. It is true that there are suggestive parallels between Blake's preoccupations and Muggletonian doctrine, but it is the nature of radical dissent to incorporate ideas from a variety of sources.

The Muggletonian connection does allow Thompson to introduce a private note, however, which reveals the scholarly exhilaration of a great historian: after writing a letter in the *Times Literary Supplement*, he is introduced to "the last Muggletonian". A certain Mr Noakes had kept a faith which first emerged in the mid-17th century, and he showed Thompson the archives of the Muggletonian Church which, only a year or two later, became formally extinct at the time of his death. What a wonderful thing it must have been, to be the last representative of an old



The divided self: Good and Evil by William Blake, from *The Secret Language of Symbols* by David Fontana (Pavilion, £15.99).

faith! This is truly the past come alive, and one of the strengths of Thompson's account lies in his insistence that the history he discloses is still part of the present moment; there is perhaps an unspoken belief that England deserves, and needs, the same radical antinomianism which once inspired the Muggletonians of Clerkenwell or the Swedenborgians of Great Eastcheap.

Certainly this is intellectual narrative of an unusual sort, and acts as a corrective to that historical vision (popularised by writers such as Leslie Stephen) which characterised the 18th century as the "Age of Reason" or the "Age of Enlightenment". It was nothing of the kind but, rather, an age in which "reason" and "enlightenment" were concepts so heavily politicised that they were resisted by many people. "Science" was also seen to be an oppressive and restricting force: once the term had implied the whole sum of human knowledge but, in the late 18th century, it had become synonymous with a

certain kind of depersonalised, mechanical vision. For Blake, and other sectaries, it was the Antichrist.

The scientists and rationalists won their battle, of course, and the communities of antinomians and dissenters are now considered, in Thompson's words, to be no more than "quaint historical fossils". But the truth is that they were just as fluent and just as scholarly as the rulers of their culture, who prevailed by employing all the techniques of the Enlightenment to disguise what was essentially a society of "brute property and power, interest and patronage". In Thompson's account William Blake stands revealed as the one great writer who could employ the anger of the dispossessed, with a history of dissent lending him the strength and self-confidence to maintain his own vision. Blake may have been "the antinomian caught in the Enlightenment" — nevertheless Thompson gives a wonderful account of an English tradition which, against all the odds, managed to produce a genius.

## Really much nicer than men

Christina Koning

**PIGS IN HEAVEN**  
By Barbara Kingsolver  
Faber, £14.99

**THE WIVES OF BATH**  
By Susan Swan  
Granta, £8.99 pbk original

Both these books by North American women writers describe a world in which men have become, if not wholly expendable, then certainly peripheral to the action. Barbara Kingsolver's novel offers the more balanced picture. There are male characters, even though they are made to do unexciting (and traditionally feminine) things such as cooking, or waiting for the telephone to ring, while the girls get on with the car chase and the courtroom drama.

The drama in question concerns Turtle, adopted daughter of Taylor Greer, herself the lover of Jax Thibodeaux. This oddly-named threesome live happily together in Tucson, Arizona, until the day when mother and daughter appear on national television, after rescuing a man from a storm drain and the child is identified as a Cherokee extraction by a campaigning lawyer. This character, Annawake Fourkiller, also a Cherokee, takes it upon herself to separate Turtle from her adoptive mother in order to return her to her Native American background.

Warned of this intention, Taylor and her daughter take off across the rural heartlands of Kentucky, on one of those odysseys beloved of American fiction since Kerouac and Cassidy lit out for Mexico. They are joined by Taylor's mother, Alice, and Barbie, a woman who thinks she is a doll. Alice is the archetypal grandmother, forever handing out advice and telling home truths. Barbie's role in the narrative seems unclear, unless it is to provide an example of monstrous femininity, to set against the more liberated Taylor.

After a series of misadventures, Taylor comes to realise that she has been denying Turtle her rightful heritage. Resigned to losing her child, she arrives at the HQ of the Cherokee nation in Heaven, Oklahoma. But the formidable Annawake has also been doing some thinking, and offers a compromise in which the judgment of Solomon is updated to produce a satisfying if sentimental ending.

Of the three male characters in Susan Swan's novel, one is an absentee father, glimpsed only through his daughter's anguished memories, another is a Polish dwarf, later killed and emasculated, and the third is really a girl. Set at a girls' boarding school, this is perhaps less of a distortion of reality than it might otherwise appear — although smoking behind the bike sheds is a more common misdemeanour than murder.

The story, set in 1963, is narrated in the first person by 14-year-old "Mouse" Bradford, so called because she has pointed ears and a shy disposition — the latter partly the result of the suffering she has incurred from childhood polio, which has left her with a twisted spine, and a hump she refers to as "Alice". Mouse and Alice hold conversations, mainly about penises; other no doubt related concerns, such

relationship with her father, are expressed in the series of unsent letters she writes to President Kennedy, on whom she has a serious crush.

Both her sexual curiosity and her capacity for hero worship find a focus when Mouse meets Paulie, another pupil. Paulie is a bad girl, given to smoking, swearing and dressing up like a boy. She encourages Mouse to do the same — transforming her from a mouse into a man — allowing the author to make caustic observations about gender difference. This is all amusing enough, and the scenes in which Mouse practices being male are well observed. But in the end, the novel runs out of things to say, and has to resort to nastiness to hold the reader's attention.

### PAPERBACKS

**I AM THE CLAY**  
By Chaim Potok  
Penguin, £5.99

POTOK served as an army chaplain during the Korean war and it is this experience which informs his seventh novel. Forced to flee their village by hostile troops, an old unnamed peasant and his wife embark on a long, melancholy march to Seoul. On route they discover a dying boy abandoned in a ditch and decide to befriend him. At first the man, burdened by superstition, resents, even despises, the boy. But later it is the boy's kindness which helps him to unlock the secrets of himself. A moving book, written with simplicity and grace.

**CARELESS TALK**  
By James Friel  
Sceptre, £5.99

SO popular has the second world war become with modern British novelists that one approaches any book on this subject with a heavy heart. But this is no ordinary war novel. Close to death, the eccentric Mabel Bancroft feels history has forgotten her. During the war, while running a hotel on the Isle of Wight, her erratic behaviour and mockery of the war effort led to her being arrested and tried as a German spy. As a narrator, Mabel is garrulous and preposterously unreliable but always entertaining.

**MY HOUSE IS ON FIRE**  
By Ariel Dorfman  
Abacus, £5.99

SCENES from everyday life under dictatorship gather sombre force as the Chilean playwright gives the spotlight to both victims and torturers. A cocky sailor on shore-leave is snubbed by dissident prostitutes: a censor of literature is tempted by curiosity; tea-break for an interrogator leads to a bizarre discussion of dieting; and a prisoner takes his revenge. Filled with courage and bitter irony, these stories are an electrifying response to tyranny.

### POEMS ON THE UNDERGROUND

Edited by  
Gerard Benson,  
Judith Chernaik,  
Cicely Herbert  
Cassell, £5.99

IF YOU were among the unfortunates stuck in the tube after last week's power failures, this new edition of all the poems which have cheered and intrigued commuters since 1985 would have been the ideal companion. A happy anthology.

Contributors: Jason Cowley, Alison Burns

## The disestablishment of America

Jonathan Clark is the most controversial historian of his generation. In his *English Society, 1688-1832*, he reopened debate about Hanoverian England, by asserting the centrality of religious belief and ideology. Clark's *Revolution and Rebellion* sought to link political developments and historical controversies in

the 17th and 18th centuries, and, in doing so, took issue with most British scholars of the period.

His new book is noticeably mellowed in its treatment of other historians. Otherwise, it displays many of the characteristics of his earlier work: constantly arresting, intellectually provocative and dem-

anding; written with an at times tortuous style and opaque vocabulary; demonstrating a mastery of the culture of print but a less secure grasp of manuscript sources; schematic, and yet, throughout, the work of a first-class mind. The book will be required reading for all those interested in the period, and will, in exciting controversy and provoking rejoinders, refocus and advance the subject.

Clark discusses the role of religion in the breakdown of the Anglo-American world. He argues that religion shaped the way in which British and colonial legal thinking developed and came to define certain practical problems as non-negotiable and beyond the sphere of pragmatic adjustment in which, for much of British and American history, legal disagreements had been addressed.

Clark approaches the American Revolution as a rebellion by groups within Protestant dissent against an Anglican hegemony, a rebellion which played on divisions within the Anglican church itself.

While less than a tenth of Englishmen in 1776 were dissenters, the proportion in America was over three-quarters, and Clark demonstrates the crucial nature of this for American history and public ideology. The rebellion of dissent against an assertive Anglicanism was a rebellion against the unified sovereign created by England's unique constitutional and ecclesiastical development.

This potentially totalitarian parliamentarianism of King, Lords and Commons was credited by Blackstone with absolute power under the common law, and dignified with divine authority by the church. Clark termed it "the Anglican Church State" in his *English Society*. Thus for Clark, the insurrections he discusses owed little to forces which later historiography has identified as agents of "modernisation" — such as individualism, radicalism and liberalism. The Enlightenment is also regarded as a suspect concept. Instead, he treats the American Revolution as a religious and civil struggle on both sides of the Atlantic.

Clark presents early-modern societies as essentially sectarian in their dynamics.



Clark on his staircase at All Souls' College, Oxford

Jeremy Black

**THE LANGUAGE OF LIBERTY, 1660-1832**  
Political discourse and social dynamics in the Anglo-American world

By Jonathan Clark  
Cambridge University Press  
£31.95 pbk

and action were carried within and articulated by the variety of religious denominations of the period, and alignments in the struggle reflected this. For Clark, the American Revolution, like other political confrontations in the English-speaking world, was not a conflict between conservatism and radicalism. He argues that it is wrong to apply terms devised in a later age, such as Lockean liberalism, bourgeois radicalism and conservatism, and that such terms were specific in meaning and period, not eternal verities.

Instead, denominational conflict mobilised far larger

ideology was subsequently to do. Clark argues that a series of contingent features, especially political and military contingencies, were crucial in determining which rebellions succeeded: there was nothing distinct about revolutions.

Clark advances his case with telling examples and draws widely on a confessional reading of colonial America in order to support his thesis that denominational relationships have to be grasped to understand why the American War of Independence was a civil war, rather than a revolution.

His thesis will doubtless be challenged, and, as with *English Society*, there is an absence of the locally specific and archivally-based dimension that is necessary to anchor Clark's case. Nevertheless, this is a work that is at once thought-provoking, valuable and interesting, and that reveals a geographical and intellectual range that inspires respect.

Dr Black is Reader in History

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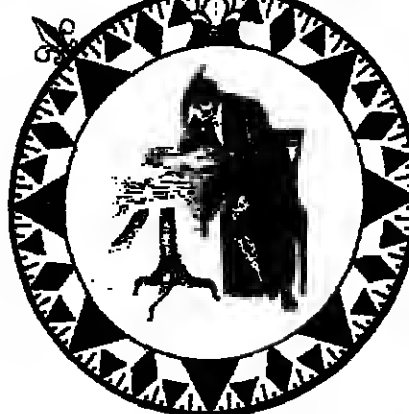
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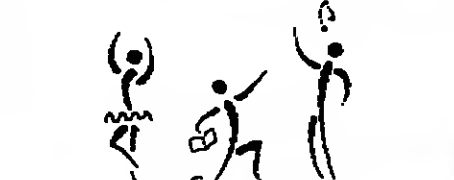
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# A Slovak at Sherborne

A new kind of scholarship scheme has brought a girl from east Europe into a Dorset boarding school. David Tyler reports

When Miroslava Vacvalova waved goodbye to her family two months ago she was literally stepping into the unknown and swapping a life in post-communist Slovakia for the privileged world of the English public school.

"I had no idea what it would be like," says Mira (as everyone calls her), now happily settled into the routine of a boarding house at the £10,000-a-year Sherborne school for girls in Dorset. "There were very many surprises when I arrived. The weather is very bad but English food, which has a bad reputation, is very good."

"The towns are clean and tidy and there is much more grass and flowers than I expected. In Slovakia we think that England is one of the richest countries in the world and I think that is true. There is so much choice in the supermarkets."

The surprises were not just on Mira's side. Alex White, Mira's head of house, says she is astonished at how easily Mira has fitted into life at Sherborne. "We were concerned about the language before she arrived, but she is terrific with the language and the way she takes dictation from the teachers is amazing. She knows words we have never heard of. She was using slang within a few days."

"It's cool," says Mira. The admiration is shared by Patricia Scott-Moncrieff, Mira's housemistress: "Her English is very good. She writes better English than many English girls with hardly any mistakes at all - she has probably worked very hard at it. She was quite shy when she came but is very composed and very anxious to please, though not in a slavish way. The other girls in the house find her quite serious. Students from eastern Europe have a very serious approach to life, but then I suppose they have had to. I think they may find us rather silly and flippant, although they would be much too polite to say so."

"Our sixth-formers will definitely gain from her visit, especially from her staying in their homes. They are very impressed with her intellectual capabilities. She is very confident and much better informed than our girls."

Mira is one of 52 students from the former communist states of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Romania, and Russia, in Britain on a scholarship scheme organised by the Headmasters' Conference (HMC). None of them has been to



Mira (centre) with Zoe Kind (left) and Alexandra White, two of her new friends at Sherborne

England before and they are now spending a year in 42 public schools in England, Scotland, and Wales.

Many independent schools already offer places to pupils from eastern Europe but this is the first major scholarship scheme in which schools provide the places and various charities meet transport, administration and personal costs.

While she is in Britain, Mira is allowed £100 for travel and £300 to meet other costs. The charities are the Soros Foundation of George Soros, the Hungarian-American millionaire who made a killing out of Black Wednesday; the Foundation for a Civil Society (formerly Charter 77 of New York); the Dulverton Trust; and the Thatcher Foundation.

All the students are fluent in English and have been selected on the basis of essays, interviews and school reports. They are following A-level courses and in some cases are continuing with preparations for their national examinations. "No mean feat," says Vivian Anthony, secretary of HMC.

Mira, who has just celebrated her 18th birthday, has chosen English, history and geography.

The only author she finds difficult, says Mrs Scott-Moncrieff, is Chaucer. Mira, from Bratislava, just outside Bratislava, misses her family and has been able to speak to them on the telephone only once since her arrival. "We do not have a phone," she says.

Her father is a research technician, her mother a primary school teacher and she has a 20-year-old sister and a brother aged nine. She writes to them regularly and is going home at Christmas.

All new girls at Sherborne are given a "shadow" to help them find their way around the school and to understand its traditions. In Mira's case, the job has been given to Zoe Kind, who is passing on her own view of English life. "Mira came to my home in London for part of the half-term," says Zoe. "I took her to see the things that teenagers like, rather than the cultural sites. We went to Oxford Street, the Kings Road and Harrods, and travelled on the buses and tube. Mira's cultural needs were met by Zoe's brother who took her to the National Gallery."

Alex accepts that Mira is getting a one-sided picture of British life. "There is no hiding the fact, but she is here as one of us getting a picture of our life," Mira, who wants to be an English translator, will return to her own school next year to pick up her course of ten subjects, eight of which are compulsory in classes of 30 to 35, compared with the small groups of five to 12 she has at Sherborne.

Roger Wicks, headmaster of Kent College and chairman of the scheme's working party, concedes that some of the boarding schools involved do have empty beds but says that the scheme is not seen as a recruiting sergeant. He says: "There is now a new map of Europe and we felt we should make contact with pupils in these emerging countries, with which we have had no real links before. It is not the intention to open up new markets. This may happen in a small way but not in my time."

Mira has clearly become a fan of Sherborne, with its 40 acres and purpose-built boarding houses in the style of English country homes. "I had no idea what it would be like," she says. "But it has been such a nice experience." She is even learning to play lacrosse.

# Open — as ever — for inspection

Words such as "quality", "audit" and "assessment" recur much more frequently in the vocabulary of headteachers of independent schools than was once the case. Large and small, nationally known or with purely local reputations, private schools have become more aware of the value of submitting themselves to voluntary inspection.

This is a general trend in all public services but it is easy, especially for successful and prestigious schools, to allow pride in achievement and reputation to slip into complacency. Also, we in independent schools have always had to prove ourselves in the market and have been quick to emphasise this, arguing that if our goods are not of the quality to appeal to parents then we go out of business. Parents become the quality guarantee of a school - its seal of approval.

The government used to issue its own seal of approval, and used a category "Recognised as Efficient" until 1978. Efficiency, of course, is not the first quality most parents would seek in their child's school, but the inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate required before recognition was granted did provide assurance that the school was doing a reasonable job. When the education department withdrew the recognition arrangements it also withdrew the opportunity for independent heads to request a general inspection by HMI.

It was to fill this gap that the Independent Schools Joint Council established its own system of inspection, the Accreditation and Review Service, in 1980. The service offers those associations of independent schools which make up ISJC the means of judging whether a school is acceptable for membership (Accreditation) and also a way of checking at regular intervals whether standards are being maintained (Review). As general standards can sometimes be high, while a particular subject is weak, so a further arm was added to the service, enabling schools to select a consultancy for a particular aspect of the curriculum or administration.

This ISJC Accreditation, Review and Consultancy Service has been working well for 13 years and has been used by all the

Independent schools are looking for ways to improve inspection standards

associations in ISJC except the Headmasters' Conference. The Girls' Schools Association, the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools, the Society of Headmasters and Headmistresses of Independent Schools and the Independent Schools Association Incorporated have all made full use of the ARCS, some 950 of their schools undergoing inspection since 1980. GSA is now, as an alternative to Review, developing



Averil Burgess

a quality management audit to evaluate the quality of a school as shown by the whole quality of its management.

Inspections last two to three days and are preceded by the analysis of masses of information provided by the school staff qualifications, examination results, class sizes, facilities, curricular breadth, pastoral arrangements and so on. All team members are given training and the system has from the start used former HMI inspectors.

By no means all independent schools are members of ISJC, but for the 1,131 schools which are, the label "Accredited by ISJC" actually means something: the school

has been subjected to rigorous analysis by professionals and their report scrutinised by the individual association. Where an association is not happy about certain aspects of a school, it can insist on the carrying out of specific recommendations and a re-visit, if the school is to remain in the association.

Now, with the establishment of the Office for Standards in Education, the successor to HMI, and all the other changes to inspections of maintained schools, we are looking at our arrangements afresh. Ofsted is using a new style of much more frequent inspection, with lay members of panels, obligatory meetings with parents, publication of reports and governors' action plans. We must now try to ensure that our arrangements can give comparable reassurance about standards. The ARCS has set up a working party, on which a member of Ofsted sits, to review its procedures and advise ISJC.

Independent schools are different: they differ widely from each other and from many maintained schools. For example, there is no obligation to follow the national curriculum, although most do. There may be special emphasis on modern languages, or on Latin and Greek; there may be fast-tracking, or arrangements for special educational needs; there may be a particular excellence for music, or in sport.

Whatever the provision, ISJC expects a broad and balanced curriculum and the assurance that the school is reaching levels of academic achievement appropriate for its intake. Like Ofsted, we are interested in a lot more than academic performance and are concerned for the quality of pastoral care, the richness of extra-curricular life and the whole ethos of the school.

There is still no statutory obligation for independent schools to be inspected, but we should all be too much aware of the power of parental choice to ignore the recent developments. When even the HMC, whose name has been synonymous with quality schools for more than a century, discusses inspections on the same model as the other ISJC associations, then we really know the culture is changing.

The author is chairman, ISJC ARCS

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## EDUCATION

The idea of giving parents credit to spend at the school of their choice is making a comeback in some surprising quarters

## Vouchers: the Swedes shine the light

Education vouchers, beloved of the right-wing intelligentsia but long ago discounted as a practical proposition in Whitehall, are poised for an unexpected return to serious political debate.

Despite the introduction of vouchers for training places, the education equivalent has had few recent champions in Britain. The idea of giving parents credit to spend at the school of their choice has been generally dismissed as extravagant, regressive and unworkable.

Suddenly, however, vouchers are becoming respectable again. The spark has come from an unlikely source: Sweden, where the system is actually in operation. And last week, an international conference attended by several European education ministers and academics added its own seal of approval.

The Swedish scheme, introduced two years ago after the country's political shift to the right, enshrines the parents' right to choose their children's school, whether from the public or private sector. Local children take preference in the allocation of places, but there are no other restrictions.

Every school with an approved curriculum is entitled to the same degree of public funding, as long as it maintains acceptable standards. Parents who opt for independent schools are issued with vouchers worth at least 85 per cent of the average cost of state education in their municipality. The independent sector is prevented by law from charging extra fees for ser-

vices provided free by the state. The government introduced the reform to open up independent education to a wider cross-section of the community, to use competition to increase efficiency in one of the world's most expensive school systems and to transfer more power from bureaucracies to the schools. The small independent sector often had lower costs than its state equivalent, and ministers now claim to detect improvements in the state system.

Odd Eiken, the minister for schools and adult education, says: "It is essential for public schools to have a competing system — and one that is a realistic and modern alternative, not an oddity for nostalgics. At the same time, it is also essential to let all schools — public schools included — have access to their own funds and budget, and thereby increase incentives for efficiency and professional improvement."

Every school is entitled to the same degree of public funding

One predictable effect of the change has been to promote a rapid expansion of the independent sector, which educated only one pupil in 100 in 1991. The number of private schools has doubled in the past year, and a new one is opening every four days at the moment.

Church schools were the first to take advantage of the new system, followed by those with a particular pedagogical identity, such as the Montessori or Rudolf Steiner schools. They have now been followed by a third wave of schools rescued from closure by parents and local communities, and the government is hoping there will be a fourth, consisting of educators



John Major is said to be looking for ways to expand nursery education. Are vouchers the answer?

who want to control their own institutions.

Inevitably, the initial cost to the public purse has been high. The government's calculation is that the scheme will begin to pay for itself when the growth in independent schools subsidies.

Opinion polls suggest that 85 per cent of Swedes value their new rights, but only 10 per cent are exercising them by opting for an alternative to their local school. Yet Mr Eiken vehemently denies that the figures show the change to have been superficial. "It is the very existence of an exit possibility that gives families muscles — not neces-

sarily the use of it — and this changes the balance of power in schools. In Sweden, we can already point to numerous examples of schools that have changed, not because parents have chosen another school, but because they have just shown their muscles."

Mr Eiken outlined the new system at a weekend conference organised by the International Organisation for the Development of Freedom of Education (IODE), a largely conservative group of senior educationists. The two-day meeting on the role of the state discussed a "proposal for the renovation of education in

Europe", which identified the voucher system as the best method of encouraging "ordered choice" by parents.

Baroness Blatch, who addressed the conference on the British education reforms, took no part in the voucher debate. But John Barnes, director of the Centre for Educational Research at the London School of Economics and a former government adviser, endorsed the concept in a keynote paper.

Mr Barnes's recommendation is for vouchers to be tried out first in higher education, where they would replace both tuition fees and maintenance grants. He has even

## Vouchers: more than a fairy tale

Nursery schooling has forced its way onto the political agenda again in the wake of the National Commission on Education report. Sir Claus Moser, who set up the inquiry, made a seductive case, arguing that to start school at three would cut crime, hooliganism and delinquency.

In 1972, as education secretary, Margaret Thatcher pledged nursery places for all. The stumbling block then was money, and it still is. John Patten, the present incumbent, swiftly rejected the commission's recommendation as too expensive. But reports suggest that John Major is examining ways to achieve expansion.

Certainly the benefits of early years schooling, as detailed in mountains of academic research, complement the prime minister's vision of a classless society. The commission reported that a nursery education is an essential grounding to raise standards, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Fewer than half of all British three- and four-year-olds are in publicly-funded classes, compared with 95 per cent in France and 77 per cent in Germany.

For a government marching under the banner of the free market and parental choice, they are an enticing proposition. Given acceptance across the political spectrum that future expansion of pre-school education is likely to be met by a mixture of public and private provision, vouchers are starting to win credibility beyond the ranks of their long-established champions on the right-wing.

Sir Rhodes Boyson, a former Conservative education minister and MP for Brent North, argues that vouchers would allow government to target help at poorer families whose children would benefit most. He urges the education department to launch a number of pilot schemes to test the idea. "It should start experiments in areas such as Manchester, Liverpool or London by giving vouchers to the lower classes. It could then establish whether children who benefit from pre-school education scored higher than might be expected in tests when they are seven. If so, the scheme should be expanded nationally."

Marion Kozak, co-ordinator of the Daycare Trust, an advisory service for parents, acknowledges that vouchers are an option that might persuade a hitherto uninterested government to invest. But she rejects outright the option of distributing vouchers worth cash sums because this would result in a two-tier system. Richer parents, she says, would be able to afford top-up fees for nursery places, which cost more.

However, Ms Kozak is less hostile to vouchers entitling children, for example, to 35 hours pre-school education each week. She says these would give parents freedom to choose the most appropriate service for their child, albeit nursery or childminders, but would need to be backed by guarantees — and sufficient cash — to safeguard quality.

BEN PRESTON

## When A-levels alone are not enough

Success in a school exam can be a poor pointer to degree calibre



Should university admissions depend only on A-levels?

The National Commission of Education has touched off a new bout of concern about A-levels. In the past week alone, the Girls' Schools Association, the Royal Academy of Engineering and university and colleges lecturers have all added their voices to the cries for reform.

The education secretary has promised to study the National Commission's report with interest, but he has already rejected calls for a change in the A-level system. As far as the government is concerned, the A-level is an immutable "gold standard" from which all other academic standards are derived.

Given the pivotal role of A-levels, one might hope that the government would welcome debate rather than attempt to stifle it. Criticism of A-levels tends to concentrate on three issues. Some reformers accuse the system of being too narrow in its scope and advocate schemes similar to the International Baccalaureate. Others attack the exams as elitist, pointing out that fewer than one in four of the age group even attempt them. Of these, 19 per cent fail in at least one exam. On the other side of the debate are those who claim that A-levels are getting easier, asking bitterly if there can be any merit in a devalued "gold standard".

The argument rumbles on, but one fundamental question remains unanswered: are A-level grades a sensible basis on which to select university students?

It seems natural to assume that someone who does well at A-level will go on to excel at university, but research on the subject is sparse and contradictory. In 1970 an admissions tutor at UMIST wrote (in *Nature*) that, while there was an "appreciable significance of A-levels in the first-year exams, they are of no significance in the final exams." He went on to say: "A-level grades form an unreliable and possibly hazardous assessment or prediction of the future academic performance of a candidate."

The question was re-

searched again by Professor Alan Smithers and Dr Pamela Robinson in 1989. After analysing the academic careers of more than 2,000 students, they concluded that "a strong pattern emerges with the higher scorers (at A-level) generally getting the better degrees. Moreover, the number of students not completing (their degree courses) rises from 1 or 2 per cent of the high A-level scorers to around 15 per cent of the low scorers."

Professor Smithers and Dr Robinson pointed out that their conclusions are not surprising since "A-levels and degree examinations are two of a kind, both requiring high-level academic skills". But what of courses that are less purely academic and more vocational, such as medicine? In 1986, Dr Chris McManus reported the results of a study involving 517 applicants to St Mary's Hospital Medical School. He found that there

was a relationship between A-level grades and success on the pre-clinical part of the course: "A-level grades discriminated between successful and unsuccessful students but had too low a specificity or sensitivity to be of use in individual prediction."

There are, inevitably, those who disagree with Dr McManus's conclusions. Dr John Foreman, admissions tutor at University College Hospital Medical School, says that his informal research shows little relationship between high grades at A-level and success on the pre-clinical course. He also reports that an appreciable number of students enter the school with high A-level grades but subsequently drop out of the course.

This occurs much less often, however, with students who have retained unsatisfactory A-levels. Dr Foreman's observation gives a clue to another

crucial factor in the success or failure of a degree course: motivation.

But motivation is difficult to measure. Dr Bogdan Szajkowski, at Exeter University, is one of many admissions tutors who find it hard to assess motivation from the UCAS form alone. An interview adds enormously to the accuracy of his assessment and reduces the chances of admitting a "drop-out". But under the present system the cost to applicant and university makes widespread interviewing impossible.

At UCAS, Dr Tony Higgins, the chief executive (corporate affairs), is well aware of the problem. His preferred solution is to delay the start of university courses and shift the university admissions process into the period after the A-level results are published. This would reduce the number of candidates that each university had to consider. It would also allow time for interviews and, more controversially, for psychometric testing.

In the short term, Mr Higgins is interested in new tests to supplement the selection information from A-levels. The Youth Award Scheme is one such system. Dave Brockington, of the University of the West of England in Bristol, where the scheme was developed, explains that the scheme's "Core Skills" tests can be taken in parallel with A-levels and have been recognised by Oxford University.

If additional tests and interviews are to be introduced in order to improve selection procedures and reduce the reliance on A-levels grades then, inevitably, university entrance will get more expensive. The department for education estimates that approximately 15 per cent of university students fail to complete their courses. At a rough estimate, this costs the country more than £100 million every year. If the new selection procedures can reduce this wastage, they will pay for themselves.

JOE RUSTON

Joe Ruston is the chairman of MPW, a group of independent sixth-form colleges.

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## EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS

International alliances offering one-stop corporate services may find they run into conflicts of interest, John Williamson reports

## Super-carriers are ready for the fray

In November it was reported that France Télécom and Deutsche Telekom were talking to AT&T, the giant American telephone company, about merging large sections of their international voice and data businesses under a so-called "super-carrier" umbrella.

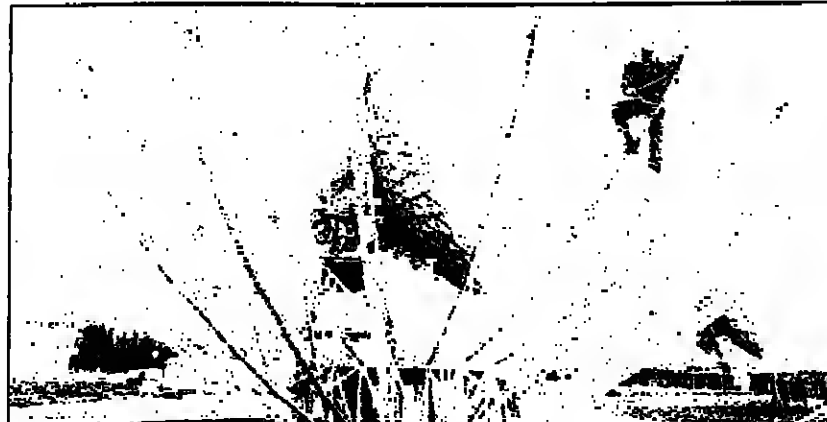
The mere prospect of this Project Atlantic coalition set pulses racing throughout the global telecommunications community. Even the idea of a bilateral Franco-German tie-up in a consortium known as Eumetcom was dubbed a "grotesque proposal" by Iain Vallance, chairman of BT, in a speech to this year's conference of the Confederation of British Industry in Harrogate.

With reactions like this, industry observers are predicting the outbreak of a shooting war as more super-carrier alliances are forged to vie for the multi-million dollar telecommunications budgets of the largest national and international corporations. Although this market will grow at between 15 and 20 per cent to reach \$6 billion in 1996, analysts believe that as few as three or four super-carrier groupings will dominate the sector by the end of the decade. The super-carrier revolution was

sparked by the formation of BT's Syncordia subsidiary, with its headquarters in America. In 1991, BT's plan was to sign up Nippon Telegraph and Telephone of Japan and Deutsche Telekom as Syncordia partners and offer corporate services globally. This initiative failed and this year BT negotiated a substitute partnership with MCI, the American long-distance carrier.

Syncordia was followed out of the gate by Unisource, an alliance between the national telephone companies of The Netherlands and Sweden subsequently joined by their Swiss counterpart. A data-network access deal between Unisource and Sprint, the American carrier, is to terminate at the end of this year, and the European consortium is now looking for a North American partner.

In October, Unisource announced it had signed Kokusai Denzha Denwa (KDD), the Japanese international carrier, to sell its data services non-exclusively in Japan. KDD is also a founding



A rigging worker at a BT satellite ground station, key to international links

member, with AT&T and Singapore Telecom, of the WorldPartners telecommunications consortium.

In Europe, competitive pressures are expected to accelerate rapidly after 1998

when, in principle, the basic voice-telephony market will be opened up in accordance with European Union legislation. It is apparent that no single operator has the clout or expertise to take

advantage, unilaterally, of all the opportunities opening up. Logic thus dictates marriages of convenience.

A second catalyst for the growth of super-carriers is the increasing internationalisation of business and commerce. This presents corporate users with complex technical and contractual choices when they come to build and run their telecommunications networks. By forming alliances with their counterparts in different parts of the world, operators aim to shoulder this burden.

One-stop service provision is not the end of the super-carrier story. Many also propose that they build, operate and manage private corporate networks for their customers — sometimes buying the existing customer network. In its fullest form, this is known as outsourcing.

Outsourcing is attractive to corporate customers on two counts. One is cost, since it gives claimed savings of between 5 and 20 per cent of companies' total telecommunications expenditure.

Perhaps more important than this is the recognition by many companies that global competition dictates that they must now focus on their core activities. For example, this year MCI made a five-year \$80 million deal to manage and operate one of the global communications networks belonging to J.P. Morgan, the financial services company. The agreement allows J. P. Morgan to concentrate on banking.

The case for super-carrier outsourcing is not open and shut, however. Analysts the Cambridge consultancy, says for example that the concept has been overhyped. And contradictions are apparent on the supply side. Most obviously, operators face potential conflicts of interest. AT&T is a putative ally of France Télécom and Deutsche Telekom, but also a leading light in WorldPartners. MCI is BT's soulmate, but also partners Deutsche Telekom. France Télécom and others in Infonet, the international data services enterprise.

It is easy to talk of combining competition and co-operation. It remains to be seen whether it is achievable.

●The author is senior editor, Global Telephony.

## Pace of irresistible change

Moves to a free world communications market meet business needs as pressures on managers grow, reports Peter Purton

Business today is confronting unprecedented pressures. Quite apart from the current hostile economic environment, commercial organisations are facing a pace of change on a scale only few have had to deal with before.

All these organisations are having to undergo fundamental restructuring. They are being subjected to radical regulatory change, which is altering the ground rules of their operations almost daily. They are entering an era of global competition offering enormous opportunities but considerable dangers, and they are also facing far-reaching technology changes.

At the same time, the strategic value of information has never been held in such high regard. The challenge today is to gather that information and get it to the people who need it promptly and in a format they can understand.

This pace of change for business in general is having a particularly strong effect on the telecommunications business. As the leading world economies change their base from manufacturing towards services, telecommunications are increasingly becoming the vehicle on which they most depend.

This is the main reason for the accelerating trend towards a free market in telecommunications, a business which for many decades has been dominated by national state-owned monopolies. Even in Europe, one of the last bastions of such monopolies, the move towards a liberalised telecommunications environment is gaining pace.

Already many of the areas which only a few years ago were state monopolies are now open to competition from all-comers. These include the sale of equipment in particular, but also increasingly the offering of telecommunications services. In mobile communications, for instance, the operation of cellular telephone services is now open

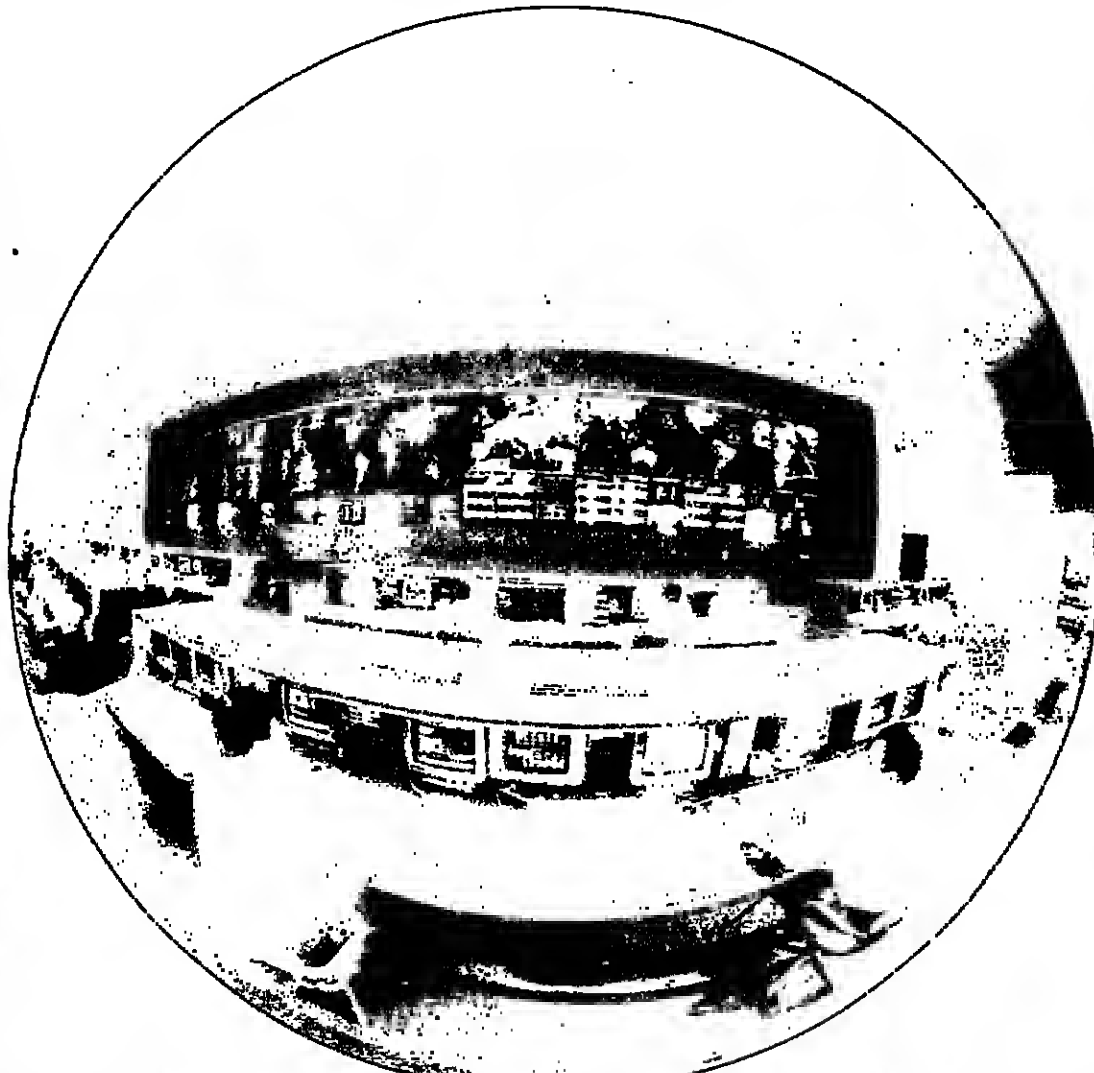
to competition in most European Union countries. The provision of satellite services and of services such as electronic messaging have also been liberalised.

The offering of basic telecommunications services, such as the ordinary telephone service, has proved to be most resilient to the forces of change. But even in this area there have been inroads. Britain, for example, now has no fewer than 40 different operators of telephone services, ranging from BT, the former monopoly-holder, and its long-established rivals, Mercury and Kingston Communications (which runs the telephone services in Kingston upon Hull), to dozens of cable-television network operators which have seized on telephony as an additional revenue-generator.

Elsewhere there has also been an opening up of the market for basic services around the edges of Europe. In Finland, for example, competition is now being allowed both in the local and in long-distance telephone services. In Sweden, there is competition in long-distance telephony. But on the whole, the liberalisation of basic telecommunications services is proving a slower process than many would like.

This looks set to change, however, towards the end of the decade. The European Commission has set itself the deadline of 1998 for liberalising telecommunications services in the EU. While there are already signs that for some countries at least, the 1998 deadline may prove to be too soon, most observers are optimistic that for the most part basic services in the EU will be open to competition by then.

One of the innovations liberalisation was thought likely to encourage was the operation by companies of their own private networks, since in the past many monopoly carriers had effectively



Staff at work in BT's world-wide management centre in Oswestry, Shropshire

made the operation of private networks impossible through a combination of restrictive regulation and prohibitive pricing. Ironically, it now looks as though the new trend may have the effect of driving companies back into the clutches of the former monopolies.

The pace of change which is driving the liberalisation of telecommunications is also driving businesses to adopt a more federated structure: they want to concentrate on what they are good at, their core businesses, and leave the rest to somebody else.

This is making them look to outsourcing their telecommunications

needs, just as they may have done already with their catering, computing, vehicle maintenance or other requirements. And the natural outsourcees are often the very carriers that were once monopolies.

A number of factors are driving customers away from running their own private networks. For a start it has become far more expensive. It has also become very complex. Quality levels are unre-

dictable. In any case, companies were forced to build their own networks in the first place because nobody else would do it for them. Outsourcing their network management needs can provide users with a number of benefits. It can save money, offer greater operational flexibility and allow capital investments to be deferred.

To build a relationship between an outsourcing company and a customer can be complex. After all, the customer is handing over the running of part of their business to an outsider. It can take up to two years to negotiate a suitable deal. Even then, most customers would

not hand over the running of their whole network all at once.

In the first phase there is usually a three to five-year commitment to manage an extension to an existing network. But this is only the beginning of a relationship that will last 20 years or more. It is the kind of decision a customer is unlikely to want to make more than once every couple of decades.

The Yankee Group, the American consulting company, predicts that by 1994-95 the combined network management and integration markets will be worth between \$4.1 and \$5.6 billion worldwide, with about a third attributable to network management alone. Europe represents about a third of the global market, North America half and Japan the balance.

Of the European business, Britain represents about half. The bulk of the rest is in France, Italy, Germany and The Netherlands.

Demand for outsourced networking comes from medium and large businesses alike. But it is of particular appeal to those with cross-border operations, where the differences in practices between national operators can make running a private network very hard work. A recent survey of multinationals suggested that 73 per cent of them are willing to consider outsourcing all or part of their networks.

The players in the managed networking business are on the whole well-financed. The technology is also generally available. The name of the game over the next couple of years is going to be gaining market access. There will be a fight for market share on a global basis — not the gentlemanly dealing we have been used to seeing from the government-owned telecommunications administrations but a real dogfight.

By the end of the decade, the whole thing will be over. The irony could be that partly as a consequence of moves designed to promote competition, the world's major corporate networks may be managed by just three or four global companies instead of today's 100-plus.

Yet another stimulus is coming from the increasing international compatibility of services. In Europe, this will come to a head next month when Euro-ISDN, a single standard for the whole continent, is officially introduced.

Euro-ISDN could provide the final push needed to establish ISDN as Europe's telecommunications network. CIT Research, the London analysis company, predicts that there will be 5.5 million ISDN connections in use in Europe by the year 2001.

In terms of analogue line connections, that would be equivalent to some 35 million lines — 10 million more than the ordinary telephone lines currently in use in Britain.

It took a long time for all the elements necessary for ISDN's success to come together, but at last its time seems to have come.

PETER PURTON

GSM is now truly global  
Mobile system wins world acceptance

Earlier this month, the global system for mobile communications (GSM), the pan-European digital cellular mobile telephone system, recruited its one-millionth subscriber. This, and the fact that nearly 100 countries have now chosen it, mean that it can now legitimately use "global".

Until recently, one of the notable non-GSM markets was the United States. But two weeks ago, GSM achieved a breakthrough there. MCI, the American operator, agreed with Northern Telecom, of Canada, Ericsson, of Sweden, Nokia, of Finland, the Telular Corporation, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory to develop a specification for high-frequency personal communications networks compatible with GSM.

In Europe, the three leading markets are Germany with some 800,000 subscribers, France with nearly 55,000, and Portugal about the same again. Outside Europe, there are three operational networks in Australia, two in Hong Kong and one in New Zealand.

GSM allows subscribers to use the same handset on any GSM network anywhere in the world. It also offers high-quality reception and is very hard to eavesdrop. Future equipment will support mobile PC and fax communications. Orbitel, the Basingstoke-based joint venture between Vodafone and Ericsson, will show a built-in adapter at this week's Sircum show in Paris.

In the United Kingdom, Vodafone offers GSM under the Eurodigital brand. Vodafone runs Metrodigital, a higher-frequency network for local use. Celine is testing GSM for launch next year.

Mercury One2One, a joint venture between Cable & Wireless and US West, launched a higher-frequency version of GSM in September that initially covers the area bounded by the M25. Hutchison Microtel will launch a similar network next year.

Handheld GSM telephones can weigh as little as 215gm (for the Motorola 7200), and have talk-time of up to four hours (Ericsson GH172). In the United Kingdom, factory gate prices vary from about £350 for the Motorola 3200 to £713 for the Motorola 7200.

GSM has not been without its difficulties. At the outset, delays over testing meant a dearth of mobile phones, and a regime was instituted for interim type-approval. Full type-approval will be possible from early next year. There has even been debate over alleged interference by GSM phones with hearing aids. The British Standards Institute is investigating, and says that initial tests suggest that the level of interference, especially with modern hearing aids, may not be as serious as at first feared.

PAUL CHAMBERS

## Green light for digital dialling

Talked about since the 1970s, ISDN is at last becoming an international reality

It has been a long wait, but at last it looks as though the integrated services digital network, or ISDN, may have come of age. Over the past few months, the psychologically important one-million barrier for worldwide connections by ISDN has been breached. And next month, a single ISDN standard for Europe will be officially launched.

ISDN represents the last step in the digitalisation of the world's telephone networks. Until a few years ago, the vast majority of telecommunications connections were made over analogue networks, in which voice signals are converted to continuously varying current flows to be relayed from point A to point B.

With digital networks, the signals are converted to a computer-intelligible data format for their journey. These digital signals are less susceptible to corruption and

distortion than their analogue counterparts. They are also far easier and faster to route along the appropriate paths. Perhaps most important of all is that they treat all modes of signal, whether voice, still or moving image, or computer data, in the same way.

The world's telecommunications carriers started with the digitalisation of their networks from the core and worked outwards. With ISDN, they are digitalising the final link from the local telephone exchange to the subscriber.

But although ISDN has been talked about since the 1970s, it is only now becoming a real prospect for most users — and being recognised for what it was always meant to be: the communications

network of the future, with a range of attendant technologies.

The system is slowly but surely becoming a part of everyday life. In Britain, radio stations such as Classic FM and Capital Radio use ISDN technology to relay broadcasts ranging from music programmes to sports commentaries. In France, record stores use it to update material, which can be heard by customers at special listening posts.

In Germany, medical researchers are using the technology to hold conferences with colleagues, ex-

changing text, image and data to supplement their conversations. There have even been trials using ISDN during hospital operations so that surgeons can consult experts in other hospitals.

ISDN is also being used internationally. The Ford motor company, for example, has set up a private ISDN network based on equipment delivered by GPT Communications Systems of Luton. The network is part of a \$31 million programme to link research and development centres in Germany and Britain.

The company says that it used to

take 30 minutes and cost \$30 to send computer files of manufacturing or design data between sites. With ISDN, it transfers the same data in three minutes at a cost of \$3.

Thanks to its equal treatment of all modes of signal, ISDN is receiving a boost from the growing popularity of multimedia applications such as videoconferencing.

On the supply side, many of the world's telecommunications carriers now find it cheaper to connect customers via ISDN than by conventional analogue links. In Britain, Mercury has made primary-rate ISDN the preferred means of connecting corporate customers to its network. In Germany, if you order a private digital circuit ISDN connection is provided.



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# Going back to nature

Even ants may help  
in the design of  
software, says  
Sara Macmillan

The evolution of life would seem to be an unlikely basis for research into new telephone exchanges. But researchers at British Telecom's Martlesham Laboratories have taken their inspiration from primitive life-forms in order to try to solve one of the fundamental problems of modern telecommunications, which is the sheer complexity of the software.

Their research focuses on the software which controls most telephone exchanges today. It aims to discover whether principles established by biological science, in, for instance, the social structure of an ant-hill, could be applied to software design.

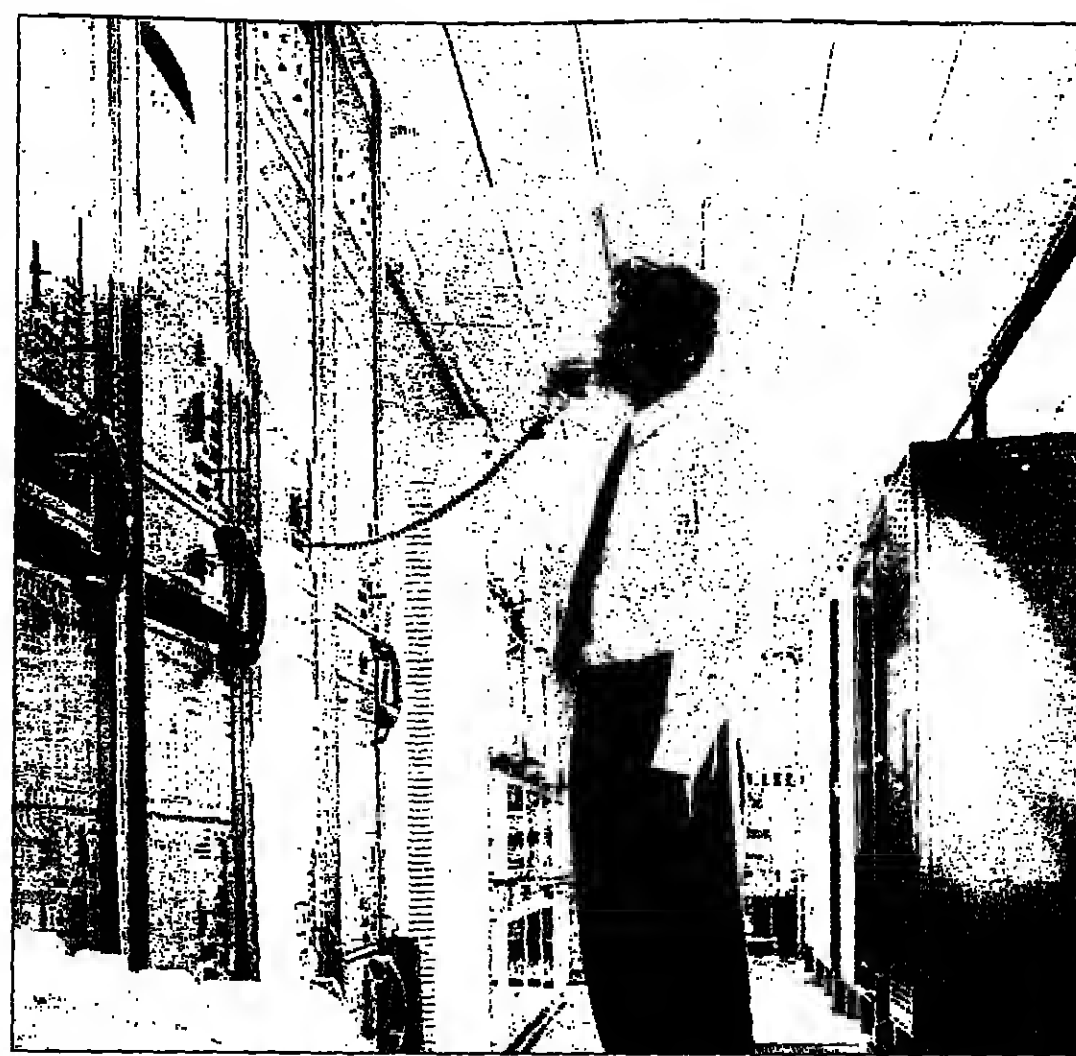
At present programs are so large that an error may go unnoticed, and even the tiniest of errors can bring down an entire network. This happened in the United States at 11.30am on June 21, 1991, when the network in Washington DC collapsed. Six million telephone-lines out of a total of 7.1 million were affected. Later the same day there was a similar breakdown in Los Angeles.

After further breakdowns in other parts of America, they were found to have been caused by one data bit error in a line of software code that managed the links between exchanges. The error had crept in when an upgrade was loaded: the upgrade was considered too small to be worth testing.

The challenge for the telephone companies is not only how to ensure that such crashes do not recur, but also how to find an error that has been introduced into the software.

Even a small exchange, handling 1,000 telephone lines, has enough code to create a print-out more than half a mile long. A typical exchange in Britain, operating between 50,000 and 250,000 lines, would have a printout of code between six and seven miles long.

Moreover, the amount of software being used is increasing—the most critical being the software which controls the links between exchanges. There is software, for example, which re-routes calls when an exchange is congested. A



Mercury's international exchange in Bracknell, Berkshire: the need is to simplify the software

network crash is most likely to occur when the software fault somehow prevents that automatic re-routing from happening.

At the moment, the BT network is unlikely to experience such a serious crash as the American one, because the critical management of exchange links is still done manually. Software is used to monitor for faults, but BT staff determine how the exchanges should re-route calls. But BT and other European telephone companies are all putting more software on to their networks.

The problem is that the programmers who design and maintain the exchanges have obvious difficulties in understanding such enormous volumes of code. Searching for an error is worse than looking for a needle in a haystack. "Theoretically, they are being asked to take six miles of paper, and walk from one end to the other, understanding every word," says John Foster,

manager of one of the Martlesham software-research teams.

Mr Foster and his colleagues are at the forefront of a long-term research project. They want to find an easier way to write and maintain large software programs. So they have begun to look at creatures in the natural world for inspiration, since nature manages to create very complex environments using only simple forms of intelligence.

An ant-hill is one example. An English garden ant has a brain of only 200 neurons. It understands only a small number of simple rules. Yet the ant-hill is a complex and thriving structure, which is much more than the sum total of the individual ants. The research team want to see if similar principles can be applied to the management of telephone networks.

"At the moment, we control our network with large computers. We are interested to see if we can manage the network by having lots of little software programs with simple rules," says Paul McIlroy, a colleague of Mr Foster. So the team has written a program that simulates the ant colony.

Another idea being investigated follows a theory being developed by biological scientists. Known as artificial life, the concept is to write a number of random programs and test them to see which carry out the desired task most effectively. Those which pass are allowed to "live". Those which fail, die. In effect, a process of mutation takes place, similar to genetic mutation.

The research is only at a very early stage, however, and tangible results cannot be expected for many years. The only other telephone company looking at artificial life techniques is NTT of Japan.

# Stay ahead of the pack with instant information

Successful businesses are increasingly using on-line information services to get competitive data ahead of others

Doing business in Europe is all to do with communications and contacts. It is no longer enough to have a telephone or even a data network in place. Instead, successful businesses are using on-line information services to get competitive data ahead of others. Some are also introducing innovative services of their own, taking advantage of new technology offered by telephone companies.

Stones, the Exeter law firm, is an example of a company which, by the pragmatic use of database access, has attracted new clients. The firm subscribes to on-line databases in this country, such as those offered by Companies House and the Land Registry. It is also a member of Onmijuris, a Europe-wide law network.

Stones can ask its Continental contacts to check out, say, who owns a property that its client wants to buy, and provide a prompt answer. "I had a query yesterday for Tenerife," says Tim Bourne, the partner responsible for information technology. "We have no links there, but I rang someone in Barcelona, and got the information straight away."

The system works in reverse, too. When another Onmijuris member requests information about a British company, Stones calls up the records on the Companies House database. It then faxes them to the Continental firm, using a fax gateway on its in-house network. The time spent is minimal. The benefit to the Continental firm is easy access to British information.

Stones does not charge extra for the service, but uses it as a lever to get business. Clients are attracted because they do not have to wait weeks or months to obtain information from abroad.

Similarly, Lochaber International, the translation services company, uses good telecommunications links to boost its turnover. Lochaber works mostly for German automotive manufacturers, and transmits and receives work by modem and fax in

its offices overlooking Loch Linnhe, in Scotland. Work is subcontracted by the Compuserve electronic mail/database service, which means that it can service clients without needing a large staff on site.

A different kind of service is provided by Will Robinson, of Marketing Information Services, based in Newbury, who has made a business out of disseminating information electronically. Every day, he logs on to a computer in Luxembourg and takes from it an electronic copy of the *European Journal*, in which all European Union government tenders are advertised.

Then he sends the tender announcements the same day to his clients. They receive the

cases, using fax switching facilities provided on the Mercury Communications network. The digest enables solicitors and barristers to keep up to date on cases where the result could affect their own clients.

Kenneth Bagnall, QC, the service's founder, says that the usual process of law reporting in the United Kingdom can take months; lawyers are often unaware of precedents until it is too late to be of use. The service began in April, and has attracted clients from Hong Kong and Jamaica as well as the United Kingdom.

A future service will enable lawyers to dial up and order a specific case in which they are interested. It will use voice messaging technology for ordering, and fax for delivery, so that people do not need to be familiar with computers to use it. Mercury is doing the technical development work.

But the full potential for information services in Europe has not yet been tapped. There is a growing number of small, niche services such as these. But the larger, established services, such as the FT Profile news-cuttings service, concentrate on selling to corporate customers, and they typically run on proprietary software, which is difficult to use.

An exception which may point the way is Compuserve, which has its headquarters in Columbus, Ohio, and set up in Europe specifically to take advantage of the on-going deregulation of telecommunications services.

Compuserve provides a single, easy-to-use access to a multitude of databases from different sources. It targets individuals rather than companies, and claims to have 80,000 subscribers, of which 35,000 are in Britain and 30,000 in Germany.

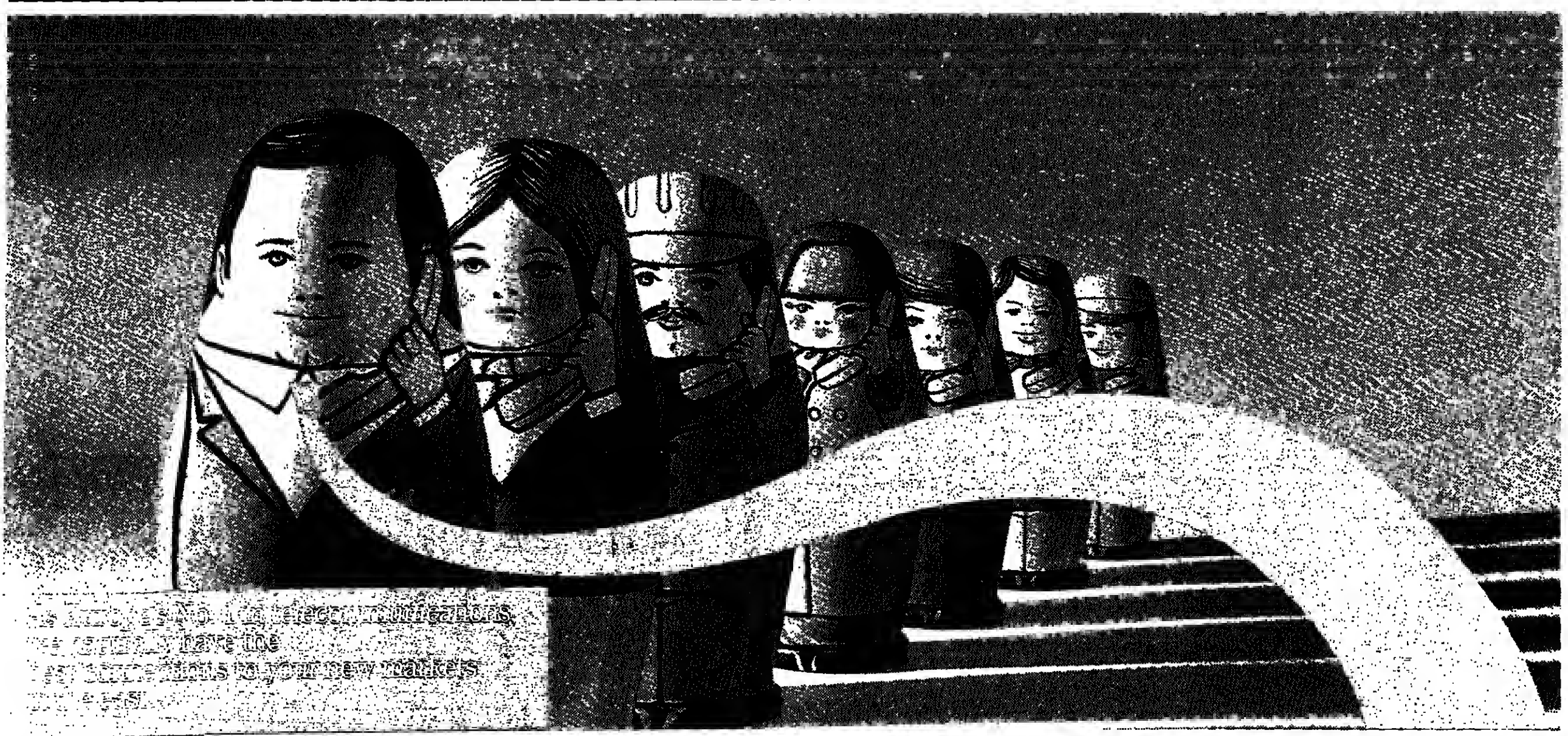
It expects to add another 50,000 in the next 12 months, in spite of the fact that almost all the information it supplies is of American origin.

The law service began in April, and has attracted clients from Hong Kong and Jamaica as well as Britain

documentation either by BT's electronic mail service or by fax. A typical charge for the service is between £2,500 and £3,000 a year. But Mr Robinson does more than just re-transmit the 100 or so pages of the *Journal* faster than the post. He filters the tenders according to each client's pre-specified requirements, so that a client in, say, the construction business gets only those tenders in which it is likely to be interested.

The advantage is that the client wins a few days in which to prepare a bid. Under the accelerated bid procedure some contracts give as little as ten days' notice, so that the extra time can be critical.

Similarly, New Law Services, based in Fleet Street, in London, sends out a daily digest of court



Whether it's easy access to international telephone lines, or setting up inter-office computer links, fast and efficient two-way communications are an absolute must for western companies doing business in the emerging markets of eastern Europe. Unfortunately, the existing public networks in these countries cannot cope with the traffic demand and this creates a severe problem for many companies.

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Fax +44 20 77 267 50 99
- New York, NY  
Tel. +1 212 424 28 00  
Fax +1 212 424 29 09
- Tokyo  
Tel. +81 3 52 73 86 11  
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- Brussels  
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- Moscow  
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the leading provider of satellite based data networks and services in eastern Europe. We have many other customized solutions to help you. For example, "DELOS" is a Telekom service that has been especially developed for companies who need direct access from eastern Europe to Germany's telephone network and the world beyond. You can enjoy high quality two-way voice, fax and data transfer and avoid the frustration of waiting for a free line. So – if a demanding communications challenge is looming on your eastern horizon, have a word with Europe's No. 1 – Telekom. Telecommunications made in Germany. We tie markets together.





## Capitalisation, week's change

[illegible]

29 42 319

...	42	95
...	44	17.0
...	29	...
22.8	42	30.9
...	...	...
...	...	...
...	19	...

**OVTC**

8.2	45	13.0
...	29	30.5
...	24	26.1
9.5	25	26.1
...	43	11.7
...	49	16.1
10	39	20.1
...	24	26.1
...	25	26.1
3.2	14	26.8
10	24	11.7
1.5	24	15.9
...	50	17.7
...	28	14.8
32	45	15.4
...	40	15.4
...	64	20.7
...	11	...

5	25	50.3	11.70	Glebo
0	12	38.0	54.40	Gold
			3.44	Good

...	8.0	11.9
...	2.5	26.5
...	...	...
13.2	3.0	30.7
...	3.0	17.4
2.7	2.5	26.2
...	3.7	17.1
...	...	...
...	3.0	12.3
...	2.5	16.5
...	...	...
...	4.0	8.5
...	...	...
...	3.8	17.4
...	1.0	6.1
2.5	3.7	16.5
8.4	5.1	18.5
0.3	3.0	14.2
...	4.8	17.7
...	1.4	2.5
...	...	...
...	4.4	17.4
...	0.7	3.0
...	...	...
...	2.1	10.1
...	...	...
...	4.0	28.2

19	15.9	3.10	Alcatraz
24	15.9	19.40	Ascent Hedges
		09.00	Asia
		54.70	Ayonside

18.9	3.7	23.3	
...	1.7	...	
5.9	3.5	23.1	
...	...	...	
...	2.1	30.4	
...	4.8	18.7	
...	1.9	...	
...	0.9	...	
...	2.4	1.3	
11.5	2.5	41.8	
...	...	...	
...	...	...	
12.9	5.6	65.2	
...	...	...	
...	2.4	17.3	

We've cut out  
the middle man

**Transavia** 

Transavia is part of the KLM group of companies

3.8	19.2	L98 Bolton Cp
3.0	62.1	21.70 Br Mohair
4.8	10.1	2.49 Chartwell
		1.11 Br Clarendon Co

[illegible]

174.40	Stagecoach
404.10	TNT
318.90	Tillett & Brins

[illegible]

KLM-  
key m

LAST-MIN-  
UTE KLMF  
that ne  
Northern  
can parer  
than hiber  
dersard  
crucial role  
the Alaska  
The pinger  
with Sea  
Airlines  
Austrian  
failed becau  
allies were un  
whether Delta  
Swedish airli  
holding, re North  
cent, and

# United

**WORD MATCH**

Answers from page 2

**ABILIGATION**

(c) Prudential action from a business perspective can deliver the most prudent of you to have this with such a comforting quality.

**BRADYPEPS**

(b) Slowness of digestion, Greek *bradys* = slow, *pepsis* = something about Susan's bradypsy in prospect, even

**VENUDINATION**

(d) The action of putting or orientation

are the frequentest cause of quarrels between the two families. She seems to have a great deal of influence in the household.

**ZENANA**  
In India and Persia that part of the house where the women are secluded and where they receive their guests.

"He was disgusted with an arrangement."

**SOLUTION TO WINNIE'S PROBLEM**  
1. Beat 2 Nuts - Eat 2 Nuts  
2. Threat of Punishment

March 1994

هكذا من الأصل



REPORTING THIS WEEK

# Market hopes to raise a glass to Bass

THIS week promises to be dominated by tomorrow's events as Chancellor Kenneth Clarke fine tunes the precise mixture of ingredients that will go into his first pre-Christmas Budget, but a number of leading companies also report results.

The battered state of the brewing industry will again be in the spotlight as Bass and Grand Metropolitan both unveil full-year figures.

With its reduced pub estate under the government's beer orders, analysts will be keen to see if Bass's brewing operation has gained market share in the face of both Carlsberg-Terley and Whitbread having seen their share decline.

John Spicer, of SG Warburg, is looking for final pre-tax profits at Bass, due on Wednesday, to advance to £495 million (£473 million) under FR3. Market forecasts range from £480 million to £505 million. Mr Spicer said conditions in brewing have remained pretty tough, but he expects Bass to have gained market share at a time when other leading brewers have seen their slice of the cake shrink.

Profits from the Holiday Inns hotel operation are likely to be flat, although there should be signs of occupancy picking up in the United States.

**WEDNESDAY**

Despite the increasingly bitter price wars among the supermarket chains, Argyl Group, which operates Safeway supermarkets, should be firmly ahead at the interim stage, with Smith New Court looking for a rise in pre-tax profits to £215 million (£206 million). Market forecasts range from £215 million to £225 million. A dividend of 3.8p (3.55p) is anticipated.

Argyl is widely expected to produce some of the best sales growth figures among leading food retailers, but analysts fear that Safeway's like-for-like growth and margin fortunes may have deteriorated during the first half, while interest receipts will have fallen sharply.

Interims: Anglo United, Argyl Group, British Bio-Technology, Cape, Field Group, General Electric, Gibbon Lyons Group, Gibbs Mew, Johnson Matthey, Mid Kent Holdings, Mountview Estates, Northumbria, Rothmans International, Vtech Holdings, Yorkshire Water.

Finals: Bass, Huntingdon Intl.

**THURSDAY**

The long-running coal strike at Peabody in the US is likely to have hit profits at its parent company Hanson. NatWest Securities expects Lord Hanson's Anglo-American industrial conglomerate to show slightly lower pre-tax profits of £1.13 billion under FR3, compared with £1.29 billion last time. Market forecasts range from £1.05 billion to £1.1 billion. NatWest is looking for a total dividend payout of 11.4p.

NatWest expects Hanson's purchase of Quantum, the US chemicals group, at the end of the year to have increased the group's debt by £800 million to £2.8 billion.

Grand Metropolitan is expected to turn in final pre-tax profits of £764 million (£913 million), according to SG Warburg, although profits are forecast to rise to £915 million.

**TODAY**

Interims: Associated Nursing Services, Borthwick, Bristol Evening Post, ERM Income Trust, Garmore Scotland Inv, Garmore Value Investments, Kalamazoo, James Graham, Marydown, Shield Diagnostics, Topi Estates.

Finals: Cantab Pharmaceuticals (O3), Control Techniques, Dakota Group, SEP Industrial, Sheelbank Property Trust.

**TOMORROW**

Eastern Electricity is forecast to report first half pre-tax profits better at £34.1 million (£26.1 million), according to UBS. An interim dividend of 6.0p (5.5p) is predicted.

Interims: Dawson International, Eastern Electricity, Philip Harris, JU Group, Metrolink Industries, Monks Inv Trust, North American Gas Inv Trust (G), Royal Trust Government Securities Fund, Verson Intl Group, Worth Investment.



Lord Weinstock could point to signs of a GEC upturn as he pieces Ferranti together

## GEC faces brake on profits

GENERAL Electric Company, Lord Weinstock's cash-rich defence-to-electronics giant, is likely to turn in relatively flat interim results on Wednesday as slowing sales of telecoms equipment put the brake on taxable profits growth.

But analysts are hoping that Lord Weinstock, who is trying to pick up the pieces of Ferranti, may accompany his usual cautious tone on prospects with signs of an upturn.

GEC's cash mountain will produce strong investment income in the first half, helping support taxable profits. Some analysts estimate that cash at the half-year stage could reach £2.2 billion, divided £1.2 billion in direct cash and the rest in joint ventures.

Jim Ross, of Hoare Govett, forecasts a slight dip in first-half pre-tax profits, to £350 million (£356 million). Market expectations range from £350 million to £360 million.

GEC's cash pile, a strong order book and profits weighted in favour of the second half of the year, could mean an improved interim dividend of 2.9p (2.68p).

GEC's defence operations should turn in a solid performance, although there are some concerns about possible Budget defence cuts.

(£859 million) after stripping out exceptional items. Market forecasts range from £715 million to £780 million. Warburg predicts a final dividend of 8.15p (7.7p), giving a total of 13p (12.3p).

Profits will be hit by a £175 million exceptional restructuring charge, mainly relating to American operations. The IDV drinks business should turn in a strong performance, helped by a diversified portfolio and less exposure to Japan than some others. The Burger King operation should also have done well, addition-

ally boosted by currency benefits.

UBS expects final pre-tax profits at MEPC to fall to £99.5 million (£109.6 million). Market forecasts range from £97 million to £105 million. A dividend of 19.9p (19.5p) is predicted. The net asset value is forecast between 43p and 48p a share.

A restructuring provision is expected to push interim pre-tax profits at Racal Electronics down to £16 million (£21.1 million), according to Hoare Govett. Market forecasts range from £10 million to £16

million. A maintained 1.5p interim is predicted. Racal has recently disposed of the bulk of its Racal-Redac activities, which are expected to lead to an £8 million one-off charge.

Severn Trent is expected to report interim pre-tax profits ahead to £149 million (£140.8 million), according to UBS. An interim dividend of 7.0p (7p) is predicted.

NatWest Securities expects Scapa Group, the industrial materials group which serves the paper and packaging industries, to report first-half pre-tax profits ahead to £21.5

million (£20 million). Market forecasts range from £21 million to £24 million. An interim dividend of 1.65p is predicted.

Interims: Anglian Group, Castings, Govett American Endeavour Fund, Racal Electronics, Scapa Group, Severn Trent, Tinsley Robert, Wrenham & East Dornborough Water.

Finals: Grand Metropolitan, Hanson, Leeds Group, MEPC, Metro Radio Group, Royal Bank of Scotland.

PHILIP PANGALOS

## Paramount future in the balance as judges meet

THE Delaware Supreme Court in the US meets today to consider what could become a re-write of American takeover rules. At stake is the future ownership of Paramount Communications, the Hollywood studio that wants to merge in a \$9.5 billion deal with Viacom, the American cable television programme maker, with which it agreed poison pill and lock-out clauses to ward off all other bids.

But last week judge Jack Jacobs threw out all but one of the clauses, handing a substantial victory to QVC Network, which runs a TV shopping channel and wants a clear shot at Paramount. Its offer is \$1 billion higher than the agreed sum. Key to the judge's ruling is that a company that puts itself up for sale must consider all bids. By agreeing a Viacom merger, Paramount had put itself up for sale, legally requiring it to analyse rival offers. Paramount and Viacom have filed for an expedited appeal. Meanwhile, Viacom figures show its \$85 a share tender offer for 51 per cent of Paramount attracted 18.7 million of the 60.4 million shares needed for control. Both offers have been extended.

## Trade talks warning

AMERICA and the European Union must this week achieve concrete results on the key market access element of the world trade talks. Peter Sutherland, the GATT director-general, said this was essential if a world trade agreement was to be reached by the December 15 deadline set by the US Congress. In a weekend warning to the 110 countries taking part in the Uruguay round negotiations, Mr Sutherland stressed that the logistics of the far-reaching trade pact meant that the effective deadline for agreement was December 13. He said it was "crucial" that all participants, especially the major trading partners, did not delay and that specific offers of market access were not left until the last minute.

## Chelsfield to float

ELLIOTT Bernerd, founder and chairman of Chelsfield, is set to become a paper multi-millionaire when his property group comes to market next month. Chelsfield, which controls Wentworth golf club, is raising £110 million of new equity, £50 million from new investors and £45 million from existing shareholders. Mr Bernerd said that the "£45 million to existing shareholders has all been taken up already". He added that his holding after flotation will exceed 30 per cent of the enlarged group, expected to be valued at about £250 million. The group has also agreed to acquire, conditional on flotation, properties from the Allied-Lions Pension Fund for £30.6 million, of which £15 million will be paid in shares.

## Firms 'must look east'

THE Confederation of British Industry has urged companies to target the fast-growing economies of East Asia as export markets. World economic growth has averaged 4 per cent a year over the past ten years, with Europe and the US managing an average of just under 3 per cent. China has seen 8 per cent a year while economies such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia have managed 6-10 per cent. Howard Davies, CBI director-general, said: "It is absolutely crucial, if we are to correct our still enormous balance of payments deficit, that we take advantage of all the opportunities open to us to participate in the rapid growth of these new markets."

# KLM-Northwest link had key role in Alcazar flop

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

LAST-MINUTE disclosure by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines that its financial exposure to Northwest Airlines, its American partner, was far greater than hitherto revealed is understood to have played a crucial role in the collapse of the Alcazar project last week.

The project to link KLM with Swissair, Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) and Austrian Airlines officially failed because the would-be allies were unable to agree whether Delta, in which Swissair has a 5 per cent cross-holding, or Northwest, 20 per cent owned by KLM, would be

Alcazar's US partner. Swissair had earlier raised objections to Northwest, America's fourth-biggest carrier, on the grounds of its financial weakness. The Minneapolis airline teetered on the brink of bankruptcy in June.

But KLM had argued that the airline was recovering and offered the best partner for Alcazar as it came with an "open skies" agreement with US authorities. KLM put \$50 million towards the \$250 million refinancing of Northwest, a contribution of which its Alcazar partners were fully aware. The Times has learnt

that an Alcazar delegation was at the US transportation department in Washington on November 16, when it was given the go-ahead to pursue a partnership with more than one US carrier.

Although this appeared to open the way to the signing of an Alcazar agreement, a meeting between KLM executives and the Dutch cabinet on November 19 appears to have changed the course of events radically. KLM then surprised the other Alcazar carriers with the disclosure that it had been more heavily involved in the Northwest rescue than the \$50

million previously announced. The Dutch carrier, which owns 14.9 per cent of Air UK, is understood to have provided guarantees to Dutch banks and Boeing, the aircraft maker, concerning their part in the refinancing of Northwest. A spokeswoman for KLM in Amsterdam said it was "unreasonable" to suggest any extra KLM risk beyond the \$50 million. She said that the KLM discussions with the Dutch government, which owns 38.2 per cent of the airline, were about possible financial help from a big shareholder, if it was needed.

# United may bow to unions

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

UNITED Airlines will this week resume talks that could give its unions a majority stake in America's second largest airline. This is an about-face by the management which had consistently rejected union offers.

It was the second time in a week that the two largest US airlines have bowed to pressure from their unions. Last

week, after the personal intervention of President Bill Clinton, American Airlines agreed to binding arbitration to settle its pay and conditions dispute with 21,000 flight attendants who had been on strike for five days.

President Clinton's pressure prompted an apparent climb-down by American chairman Robert Crandall, regarded as

among the toughest of US bosses, and sparked speculation that he had bungled the strike and resignation. To calm market fears, Mr Crandall said in a statement: "Nothing could be further from the truth. I have the complete and total support [of the board and institutional shareholders]."

Analysts say the President's

personal interest in labour relations peace could signal a much tougher stance by White House negotiators during the next round of the bilateral aviation talks due to take place in a fortnight.

Tensions are already running high. Britain has already threatened to cancel some US flights into Heathrow as retaliation against a new time limit placed on co-operation agreements between British Airways and its American associate USAir. They are limited in acting as a single airline serving a further 28 US cities to 60 days instead of the traditional 12 months. The decision was linked directly to the problems that American Airlines says it is experiencing gaining access to Heathrow at commercially viable times.

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 44

**ABLIGURATION**  
(a) Prodigal expense on meat and drink, from the Latin noun of action from *abligare* to squander on dainties, from *ab* away + *ligare* to tie delicately, to be fond of dainties, *ligere* to tie. "So prudent of you to have chosen Bessie, Reginald. Abligation is such a comforting quality in a fiancée."

**BRADYPEPSY**  
(b) Slowness of digestion, frequent in the 17th century, from the Greek *bradus* slow + *pepsis* cooking, digestion: "There is Greek *bradus* slow + *pepsis* cooking that induces queasiness and something about Susan's cooking that induces queasiness and bradypepsy in prospect, even before it reaches the table."

**VENTIDATION**  
(b) The action of putting forward or displaying in a favourable or ostentatious manner, from the noun from the Latin verb *ventidare*, the frequentative of  *vendere* to sell: "Have you seen the *ventidare* that our daughter proposes to wear to the school ball, dear? She seems to have graduated from ostentation to ventidation."

**ZENANA**  
(a) In India and Persia, that part of a dwelling-house in which the women are secluded, an East Indian harem, from the Persian *zenāna*, *zun* = a woman, cognate with the Greek *gynē*: "He was disgusted with an order to search the zenana for treasure."

## CHANGE ON WEEK

**THE POUND**

US dollar 1.4750 (+0.0025)  
German mark 2.6274 (+0.0025)  
Exchange index 81.2 (+0.2)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2369.3 (+11.7)  
FT-SE 100 3111.4 (+3.4)  
New York Dow Jones 3683.95 (-10.06)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avege 16726.37 (-1214.82)



Crandall: not quitting

### LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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International Professional Association seeks Assistant to Secretary General. Applicants should have good word-processing skills, a capacity to work on their own and a pleasant, helpful manner in dealing with members. Experience in handling basic accounts would be an asset. Salary negotiable.

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A prestigious academic society, based in the West End, has a vacancy for a Secretary working jointly for the Building Services Manager and the Information Technology Manager.

Skills required: organization ability, word processing (MS Word for Windows), audio, possibly experience of spreadsheets (Excel for Windows).

A salary package of around £14,000 p.a. is offered and an attractive workplace.

Applications by letter and C.V. should reach Mr K Newton, Executive Assistant, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8AE by 6 December 1993.

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A prestigious academic society, based in the West End, has a vacancy for a Secretary working jointly for the Building Services Manager and the Information Technology Manager.

Skills required: organization ability, word processing (MS Word for Windows), audio, possibly experience of spreadsheets (Excel for Windows).

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# Grant Thornton's view of the Queens Moat affair

The following extracts are taken from the report, last May, by the accountants brought in to examine the hotel group's problems

## Trading activities

### Diverse hotel portfolio

The Group's portfolio of hotels are diverse in their physical characteristics and style, particularly in the UK where growth has been achieved through an opportunistic expansion strategy. The UK hotel portfolio, although containing a core of well located and profitable hotels, is inefficient as a consequence of the inclusion of a large number of poorly performing units which are inconsistent with the typical style of the majority of the remainder. UK divisional management have identified 30 hotels which they consider should be marketed for disposal in the future.

### Sale and leasebacks

In recent years, the Group has entered into a number of sale and leaseback transactions involving hotels and two commercial properties in the UK, Germany and Holland. These transactions appear to us to have been designed to remove liabilities from the Group balance sheet. They have had the effect in certain instances of inflating reported turnover and operating profits.

### Hotel incentive management schemes

The Group operates incentive schemes in the UK, Germany and Holland which enable managers to operate hotels through private companies in return for paying a fee. At 31 March 1993, some 84 hotels were operated under these schemes. During 1992 and early 1993 adverse trading conditions led to 29 incentive managers not being able to maintain the fee payments and the return of the hotels in direct management.

The incentive scheme has a number of serious disadvantages which need to be addressed. The most important shortcoming... is that incentive managers have the opportunity of making substantial profits after payment of the incentive fee, but the Group tends to be exposed to the risk of losses in less successful years.

### Accounting policies

#### Certain accounting policies inappropriate

The accounting policies which the Group had adopted in the past appear to us to be inappropriate in a number of respects. Their application has had the effect of accelerating the recognition of revenue, of deferring or capitalising expenditure and of using the policy of annual revaluation of hotel furniture and equipment to understate the Group's depreciation charge. In particular we believe the accounting policy adopted in the past in relation to the recognition of incentive fee income to be unacceptable. One of its effects was to increase the reported income of the Group's hotel operation when the number of incentive agreements was increasing as it was up to 1991.

The Group has in our view misused the revaluation reserve through which various losses arising or provisions required have been charged. Thus, when eight UK hotels were sold and leased back by the Group in 1991 the profits arising from the disposal of six were taken to profit and loss account. However, the loss arising from the disposal of the remaining two was charged to the revaluation reserve.

### Group results for the year ended 31 December 1992

We began our work on 1 April 1993. At that time no draft consolidated accounts had been prepared, but draft consolidation working papers were available. These showed a profit before tax of £40.6 million. We were informed that these working papers were still subject to further adjustment and it quickly became apparent that reliable accounts could not be prepared from them. Bird Luckin told us that they had concerns about a large number of issues. Their concerns have largely been confirmed during the course of our work, and further matters have come to our attention which affect the 1992 accounts. The Group was due to announce its results on 7 April 1993.



Andrew Coppel, chief executive, provided a strategic development plan



Stanley Metcalfe, left, chairman, and John Baird, former chairman



## Short term action

We consider that in the short term the Group has very limited room for manoeuvre. The prospects of raising new equity or achieving a sale of all or part of its business are remote. Until the Group's proposals aimed at achieving an orderly work out of its current financial difficulties are finalised, the primary emphasis must be on strict cash management, improvements to operational management and systems and the disposal of assets not essential to the Group's ongoing core business activities.

### Options available to lenders

The lenders have two possible options available, namely to continue to support the Group and in time, consider its proposals with regard to future financing or to withdraw support. A withdrawal of support would precipitate the failure of the Group and on the basis of our security review is likely to result in many lenders suffering a shortfall.

The advantages of supporting the Group and considering its proposals will enable lenders to avoid the consequences of a formal insolvency and allow time to assess the merits of the Group's proposals compared to insolvency. Lenders would also have the opportunity of improving security. Whilst we consider the long term value of the Group's assets may improve by avoiding insolvency, it is possible that the proposals from the Group regarding future financing may require lenders to participate in a debt to equity conversion.

### Management and systems

#### Strain following rapid growth

The Group has expanded rapidly over recent years. This has placed strains on the management of the Group with which its systems and resources have not been able to cope. The consolidation process is extremely complex and time consuming and this has contributed to a scarcity of consolidated management information at a Group level.

#### Group problems

The structure of the Group is unduly complex, with too many subsidiary companies. The operating divisions do not have co-terminus period ends for management reporting purposes. There is almost no history of cash forecasting or central treasury function, and no internal audit function. These are all matters of which Mr Coppel and Mr Le Poidevin are aware. They have already begun to recommend and implement change.

#### UK hotels division

The UK hotels division does not appear to be managed as a single business entity. The operational management tend to be reactive to problems, in part due to workload constraints. The production of management information within the division is inefficient and information is not available in a timely manner.

#### Overseas hotel division

The overseas hotel divisions tend to be run autonomously by their own local management. In Belgium there is a significant problem in that the hotels are individually managed from either France or Holland. Responsibilities and reporting lines are unclear. The Austrian hotels division would benefit from enhanced local management. In Germany, changes need to be made to take account of operational inefficiencies and potential conflicts of interest.

#### Changes now being made

Mr Coppel and Mr Le Poidevin have begun to conduct their own review. They have assessed the shortcomings in the operational management and systems. Certain improvements have already been identified and implemented and additional staff have been recruited to strengthen the Head Office finance function.

They have also conducted a review of the Group's management structure and will shortly be recommending changes designed to ensure that the management of the Group is strengthened where necessary. We understand that this will include major changes in the main board, the recruitment of new Group and UK division hotel executives and the recruitment of other key executives.

### Other matters

#### Pensions

Our principal findings in relation to the pension arrangements concern inadequacies in the administration of the Group's UK schemes and opportunities to cut the potential deficit in the executive scheme through improved investment policy and the avoidance of dynamic pensions.

# A horrid nightmare for Gordon Brown — he's delivering the Budget



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

After months of pundit-free Budget debate, we shall still have to wait until tomorrow to find out which of the myriad options Kenneth Clarke has chosen. Even then, one intriguing mystery will remain: what Labour's Budget might have been. You cannot blame the Opposition for dodging that one. Better leave Mr Clarke to sort out a Tory mess by the next election. If John Smith really lost the last one for Labour by being honest on his Budget plans, the best compensation is that neither he nor Gordon Brown, his own shadow chancellor, have to deliver the first unified Budget.

Since the party cannot be seen saying nothing at all, Mr Brown has astutely dreamed up a smokescreen. This challenges the need for more taxes on ordinary people with a populist prospectus for raising vast sums from a row of sitting ducks. Mr Brown's plan would ostensibly raise £5 billion a year for two years by closing tax loopholes and making a one-off levy on utilities.

This knockabout stuff is not meant to be taken seriously as fiscal policy. Yet Mr Brown's smokescreen accidentally reveals Labour's Achilles' heel. The party still thinks of tax as a way of punishing rich people, profitable companies and ideological enemies such as privatised utilities and property developers, who should pay more. John Smith's alternative election Budget lost votes because it showed Labour to be against anyone getting on in the world, not for raising tax per se.

This punitive mentality — squeezing all the pips squeak — has also allowed Labour, in Opposition, to divorce spending from tax raising, suspending the reality that anything the government wants to do has to be paid for out of ordinary voters' pockets. Under the disciplines of office, Labour has not generally spent or taxed more than the Conservatives. Yet it has appeared anxious to spend more and has levied tax at higher rates, whereas Conservatives appear anxious to cut public spending and tax rates, even though the tax take will soon rise almost to wartime levels.

Positioning itself for the 1992 election, Labour toned down its principles but kept its prejudices. In fiscal policy, it would surely do better to jettison its prejudices rather than its principles. After all, the Liberal Democrats' penny on income tax for education proved one of their few vote-winners. By linking

spending and the tax burden, the unified Budget offers an ideal framework for Labour to become realistic in Opposition and credible to voters.

The party should start from an overview of the proportion of national income that government can tax and spend. That will almost certainly conclude it should not normally be more than 40 per cent. The Conservative government is spending about 45 per cent at the bottom of the economic cycle. Some of that will unwind with recovery, but there will still be no room to spend and tax on a larger scale.

For any party, the trick is to release resources now flooding into poverty relief, due to the economy malfunctioning, to programmes such as health, on which everyone wants to spend more. Some Tory right wingers see a modern equivalent of the 1834

'Set state spending targets in terms of percentages of the national income'

New Poor Law as the way out. A Labour government would have to employ subtler measures taking, at best, many years to work. Until then, even steady 3 per cent economic growth would not create much room for big new programmes if the 40 per cent rule is accepted, any more than it would bring full employment. Public sector workers, whose pay looms large in programme spending, expect their share of prosperity. Even the cost of a basic state pension pegged in real terms might grow roughly in line with the economy as the retired population swells.

So most new spending commitments need to be matched by savings. The best way for Labour to institutionalise this discipline, and earn public confidence, would be to set spending targets on individual sectors openly in terms of percentages of the

previous year's national income. If it wants spending on the National Health Service to rise faster, it can tell the public that an extra percentage point would be allocated to health, then explain how that 1 per cent of national income was to be saved elsewhere or, in the extreme, that the proportion of incomes taken in taxes would also have to rise. Even pension and child benefit transfer payments, if not poverty relief, could be targeted in such percentages, with rates depending on economic performance and claimant numbers. We could then have a genuine debate over priorities at election time. (Conservatives could use percentage targeting to convince the public they did not plan cuts in health spending.)

If spending needs to be a matter of open choices, so does tax. The Liberal Democrats' penny for education may be an argument for tying more taxes to spending priorities. But no party should plan to raise the overall tax take from its present percentage of the national income, let alone its level in a few years' time. Tax policy is therefore mainly an argument about how the burden is to be distributed.

One lesson from Mr Brown's loophole hunt is that he should abandon the predilection for tax allowances for good causes, which again features in his full employment programme. To the expert, every allowance is a loophole. These "tax expenditures" also have to be made up by higher taxes on ordinary people. Nor is it realistic to expect spending programmes such as training, designed ultimately to shrink poverty relief, to pay for themselves for many years.

Even many affluent people would accept a rise in top tax on incomes to 50 per cent, preferably by removing the ceiling on national insurance contributions. Full taxation of transfer benefits would introduce acceptable selectivity, especially if Mr Clarke pre-empted Labour redistribution by restricting allowances to the standard or basic rate. But if the total tax burden is not to be raised, such imposts merely provide leeway for other taxes to be reduced. If Labour is serious about reducing unemployment, its top priority should be to abolish the jobs tax imposed by employers' national insurance. If Mr Brown could meet a small fraction of the cost by closing some corporation tax loopholes, good luck to him.

## GILT-EDGED

# Key reasons for healthy exposure to the market

As year-end approaches, investors in the UK debt and equity markets will be thinking increasingly in terms of their 1994 asset allocation and, in particular, the split between gilts and equities in their portfolios. One method of assessing the value of gilts relative to equities is to look at the ratio of the yield available on 20-year government bonds to the dividend yield on the FT all-share index. Certainly, when judged from a historical perspective, gilts look rich relative to UK equities. Clearly then, in formulating their strategy for 1994, investors must evaluate whether gilts' current premium versus equities is justified or not.

In tomorrow's Budget, there are strong expectations that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, could announce changes to the tax treatment of dividends. In his final Budget as Chancellor, Norman Lamont reduced the value of tax credits attached to dividends to 20 per cent from 25 per cent. It is thought that Mr Clarke could lower this further. Such a move would reduce the after-tax dividend yield on equities and might well induce a flow of funds out of equities and into fixed-interest securities.

The size of any inflow into the gilt market clearly will depend on the extent of any reduction in the tax credit associated with dividend payments. While the impact of any changes to the tax treatment of dividends is likely to be felt sooner rather than later, in the medium term it is likely to be expectations of the economic environment into 1994

and beyond that will figure strongly in the portfolio split. Of key importance will be investors' perceptions of the breakdown of nominal GDP growth between real economic growth and inflation. It is widely expected that the Chancellor will revise upwards government estimates of growth this year and next, while revising downwards official projections for inflation. However, the key point from a market perspective is that such revisions are largely already discounted.

If, for example, one believes that the recovery will continue to surprise on the upside and, as a result, is less confident on

'A large portion of any fiscal tightening should be deferred until future years'

the outlook for inflation, one presumably would re-weight portfolios toward equities at the expense of gilts. Our own feeling is that risks to the recovery are to the downside, with the corollary that inflation pressures are expected to remain in check into 1994. Our starting point is the consumer. In particular, we think that October's disappointing retail sales data could be a lead indicator of things to come. While we readily acknowledge that the decline in the savings ratio and stronger than expected consumer credit data point to an improvement in the financial position of the personal sector, it is question-

able whether consumers have accurately factored into their spending plans the impact of likely tax increases. Tax increases totalling £6.725 billion are already planned for fiscal 1994-5. The housing and labour markets are also factors to consider in evaluating consumers' expenditure.

We think the inflation outlook into 1994 remains relatively secure. While any further extension of VAT is likely to impact the overall level of prices, it is important to distinguish between a one-off price-level rise and continual acceleration in the rate of change of price increases, i.e. inflation. It has to be seriously questioned whether retailers will be sufficiently confident to start expanding their profit margins aggressively.

There are good grounds for investors retaining a healthy exposure to the gilt market into 1994, not least because of the possibility of further reductions in base rates, as well as a relatively benign inflation outlook. The latter is likely to be reinforced should the Chancellor, as part of the government's medium-term financial strategy, announce a review of the Bank of England's powers to set monetary policy.

With respect to the Budget itself, recovery risks considered, we think that a large portion of any further fiscal tightening should be deferred until future years.

ANDRE DE SILVA  
AND STEPHEN  
DULAKE

PaineWebber  
International (UK)

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Problems for Mrs Levitt

DIANA Levitt has had a rough time in the three years since her husband Roger's firm collapsed — and press coverage has not helped. Waiting anxiously in court for sentence to be passed on Friday, she confessed that one of the most irritating aspects has been the mis-spelling of her name by hacks, who insist on referring to her as Diane. "It's most annoying," she told a journalist. "It's rather like having Mervyn described as Melvyn." "Actually, my name is Melvyn," replied Melvyn Howe, the Press Association's man on the spot.

### Susan's song

TO RUSSIA with Love... In an episode worthy of Dr

Zhitago, Andrew Balmagne, who is part of a team setting up an office for Morgan Stanley in Moscow, chose Red Square in which to propose to Susan Jackson, who is part of the PR team at Visa International. "It was very romantic," says Jackson, who studied Russian at university. She moves to Moscow next March, with a wedding planned soon afterwards.

### Networking

MUSCLE flexing at James Capel, which has signed up Mark Tinker, former UK equity strategist at Kleinwort Benson. Tinker, who will work with Paul Walton can claim to have the City taped. His twin brother, Chris, is a strategist at Credit Lyonnais Laing, and his wife, Janet Dyson, is a European health care analyst at Hoare Govett.



"Santa wants no increase on spirits, no VAT on fuel and another half point off interest rates"

In further moves, Stewart Breed joins Capel from County NatWest Investment Management, Katie Darby has joined the corporate bond department from Morgan Stanley as a convertibles research analyst, and Neil Morton comes from NatWest Markets to help Jackie Ashurst cover European chemicals.

SAY to a London taxi-driver: "Take me to Goldman Sachs", and he may well lick his lips in anticipation. The firm, one of

the City's biggest taxi account holders, has allowed a coffee machine to be installed in its loading bay.

### Bread and butter

NIKOLAUS Breuel, who took over as managing director of two east German railways subsidiaries this month, is in no danger of forgetting which side his bread is buttered — or who is buttering it. According to Focus magazine, Breuel, 33, has breakfast prepared for him each morning at five by his mother, Birgit, boss of the Treuhander, at the Potsdamer Platz flat they share in Berlin. Despite mum's commanding role in privatising East German industry, Breuel laughs off suggestions that she helped him get the railway job, saying: "I go my own way."

JON ASHWORTH



## BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (25558)  
6.00 Breakfast News presented by Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando (52373271)  
9.05 Kilroy & Company: Discussion on a topical subject (s) (5811037) 9.45 Newsround: Daily quiz chaired by Ross King (s) (1263639)  
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3600146) 10.05 Playdays (s) (6014788)  
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick: Weekday magazine (7812134)  
12.15 Pebble Mill: Alan Titchmarsh is joined by Marilyn Lewis and Sir David Frost (s) (2058252)  
12.55 Regional News and weather (7609618)  
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (70961)  
1.30 Newsround (Ceefax) (4282827) 1.50 XYZ: Alphabet quiz (4200287)  
2.15 Knots Landing: West coast spin-off from the Dallas saga (s) (3850165) 3.05 Family Affairs: Magazine series about family life (s) (3307788)  
3.35 Cartoon Double Bill (2208542) 3.45 The Adventures of Spot (7665981) 3.50 The Greysaurus Gang (1120487) 3.55 Star Pets (s) (2302558) 4.10 Bananaman (s) (505252) 4.15 Marmite and the Puppet Comedy (s) (1296417) 4.30 The 5th Musketeer (Ceefax) (s) (1103638)  
4.55 Newsround (5839146) 5.05 Blue Peter: Includes a story, specially made in 3-D, about a sea rescue. (Ceefax) (s) (2978287)  
5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceefax) (s) (726417)  
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart (Ceefax) (581)  
6.30 Regional News Magazine (271): Northern Ireland: Neighbours  
7.00 Telly Addicts: Television trivia quiz hosted by Noel Edmonds. The guests are Liza Goddard and Gareth Hunt. (Ceefax) (3435)  
7.30 Watchdog: Consumer affairs series introduced by Anne Robinson (Ceefax) (445)  
8.00 Dr Who - 30 Years in the Tardis: A tribute to the time-travelling hero (57405)  
8.50 TV Heroes: Denny Baker in praise of Johnny Morris (s) (52858)  
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Marilyn Lewis (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (6146)  
9.30 Panorama: Talking to Mr Adams: An investigation into whether talking to Gery Adams is a prerequisite for peace in Northern Ireland (321271)

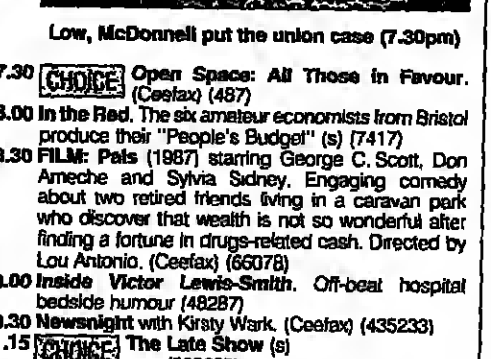


Julia T. Wallace fights for her man (10.10pm)

- 10.10 The Life and Loves of a She Devil: Episode two of the four-part dramatisation of Fay Weldon's story of the revenge of a woman spurned. Starring Dennis Waterman, Patricia Hodge and Julia T. Wallace (s) (Ceefax) (399287): Northern Ireland: The Back Page 10.35 The Life and Loves of a She Devil 11.30 Film 93: 12.00-12.30am Carrying On: Wales: Export Wines 10.40 The Life and Loves of a She Devil 11.35 Film 93: 12.05am-12.35 Carrying On  
11.05 Film 93 with Barry Norman: Among the films reviewed this week are *Aladdin* and *The Hand* (s) (740287)  
11.35 Carrying On: Dr Miriam Stoppard counsels a graduate who has been looking for a job for more than a year (s) (42417)  
12.05am Weather (171634): Ends at 12.10  
3.00-3.30 BBC Select: RCN Nursing Update (58553)

## BBC2

- 6.45 FILM: *Age of Aces* (1833, b/w) starring Richard Dix. First world war drama directed by J. Walter Ruben (5066829)  
8.00 Breakfast News (9148438)  
8.15 Westminster Daily (8234287)  
8.30 Arthur Negus Enjoys: A visit to Weston Park (s) (362184) 8.50 A Week To Remember (b/w): Paddy Newsweek from 40 years ago (5047037)  
9.00 The History Man: West Show, a recreated Anglo-Saxon village in Suffolk (s) (7338320)  
9.05 Daytime on Two: Educational programmes  
2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (5082981) 2.05 Numberline (s) (1478081) 2.15 Regional Westminster Programmes (126366) 2.45 in the Garden: Seasonal advice (s) (6826788)  
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (425097) 3.05 Songs of Praise from Durham Cathedral (s) (Ceefax) (s) (4119968) 3.40 A Week To Remember (b/w) (s) (7665504) 3.50 News (Ceefax) and weather (7651788)  
4.00 Catchword: Paul Cola hosts the word game (s) (184) 4.30 Wildlife Showcase: A portrait of Montecristo, the island nature reserve between Corsica and Italy (s) (Ceefax) (368)  
5.00 Today's Day: Historical quiz (s) (1333)  
5.30 The Kitchen Kitchen and Garden (s) (Ceefax) (s) (320) 6.00 The Addams Family (b/w): Classic American ghoulish humour (Ceefax) (s) (138304)  
6.25 Def It: D Energy: Music magazine (148520) 6.55 Las Vegas: A comic homage to Orson Welles (s) (285417) 7.00 The Real McCoy (s) (s) (1097)



Low, McDonnell put the union case (7.30pm)

- 7.30 **CHOICE** Open Space: All Those in Favour. (Ceefax) (487)  
8.00 In the Red: The six amateur economists from Bristol produce their "People's Budget" (s) (7417)  
8.30 FILM: *Pals* (1987) starring George C. Scott, Don Ameche and Sylvia Sidney. Engaging comedy about two retired friends living in a caravan park who discover that wealth is not so wonderful after finding a fortune in drugs-related cash. Directed by Lou Antonio. (Ceefax) (50078)  
10.00 Inside Victor: Les Smith. Off-beat hospital bedside humour (48287)  
10.30 Newsnight with Kirsty Wark (Ceefax) (435233) 11.15 **CHOICE** The Late Show (s) (502639)  
11.55 **CHOICE** (227726)  
12.00 FILM: *White the City Sleeps* (1956, b/w). The first of a short season of films being shown in tribute to the late Vincent Price. After two more films, the murdered a newspaper proprietor offers the editorship to the first of three newsmen to crack the case. With Dana Andrews, George Sanders and Rhonda Fleming. Directed by Fritz Lang (587568). Ends at 1.00am  
2.00-4.00 Night School (94011)

VideoPlus and the Video PlusCode  
The numbers next to each programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder to receive a video on demand. VideoPlus can be used with most VCRs. For more details on VideoPlus see page 12. VideoPlus is a service of the BBC. For more details on VideoPlus see page 12. VideoPlus is a service of the BBC. For more details on VideoPlus see page 12.

## CHOICE



Russell, second left, joins the club (ITV, 9.00pm)

**A Woman's Guide to Adultery**  
ITV, 9.00pm  
John Major's return to basic values takes a bashing in this merry-go-round of infidelity from the novel by Carol Clewlow. The plot is so complicated that it would take a Bertrand Russell to unravel it. But basically it is about a woman friends who are pretending not to be friends. Rose (Theresa Russell) offers the admirable feminist precept that to sleep with someone else's husband is helping to humiliate a woman. This does not stop her falling for her disheveled, married, college tutor (Sean Bean). The cast, which also features Amanda Donohoe, Adrian Dunbar and Ingrid Lacey, is classy. The dialogue, however, is too often of the "Oh, Michael, I didn't mean to hurt you" variety.

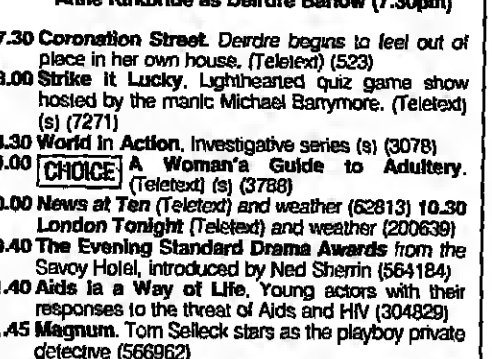
**Cutting Edge: Navy Blues**  
Channel 4, 9.00pm  
If you have wondered what happens to people who step out of line in the Royal Navy this two-part film could open your eyes. Here is an often intimate fly-on-the-wall account of how the navy's own police force tried to crack down on unacceptable behaviour. The cases range from that of a Wren who alienated a sexual assault to the discovery of 175 berries, nearly twice the allocation, in the stewards' mess fridge. But the cameras reserve their principal spotlight for two young men. One is accused of desertion after going AWOL to help his pregnant girlfriend. The other is investigated for homosexual activity, forbidden in the navy, after an anonymous tip-off. It must have taken courage from both to allow their private lives to be aired so publicly.

**Open Space: All Those in Favour**  
BBC2, 7.30pm  
The viewer access slot is granted to Doug Low and Bill McDonnell from Sheffield to argue the case for trade unions. Twenty years ago, at the height of union power, the programme would have been unthinkable. Then came Mrs Thatcher. The film argues that her trade union legislation has taken working people back to the 1930s. If not to the 19th century, it claims that the Victorian battles against job insecurity and ruthless employers are having to be fought all over again. Helped by readings from Eric Richard of *The Bill*, Timothy West and Prunella Scales, the case is eloquently made. But given the format of the series the programme cannot help but be a party political for the TUC.

**The Late Show**  
BBC2, 11.15pm  
A thumbnail history of the United States space programme comes to the disenchanted conclusion that a once great adventure is now a thing of the past. The programme argues that one of the main reasons is the ending of the Cold War. It sees the space race as an extension of the US-American rivalry, with each side trying to outdo the other. The Soviet Union launched the first satellite into space, then the first animal, man, woman and crew. The US hit back with the first moon landing. But the cost was crippling and the scientific benefits questionable. The plan by NASA to merge with the bankrupt Russian space station programme is seen as the effective end of the space age. Peter Waymark

## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV: Early morning news and entertainment including, at 9.00, Top of the Morning, the topical family magazine (5884184)  
8.25 Supermarket Sweep: Game show set in a supermarket (s) (7362233) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (6023436)  
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion series chaired by John Stapleton (s) (3203558)  
10.35 This Morning: Weekday magazine hosted by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan (7817523) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7521078)  
12.30 ITN: Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (5852300)  
12.55 Coronation Street: A repeat of Friday's episode. (Teletext) (593791) 1.25 Home and Away: Australian family drama. (Teletext) (30213349) 1.55 A Country Practice: Medical drama (s) (4293726)  
2.20 Capital Woman: With Annela Rice and Stephen Gardner (s) (5954589) 2.50 The Young Doctors: Australian hospital drama (7081252)  
3.20 ITN: News headlines (435297) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (4334558)  
3.30 Tots TV (s) (2201639) 3.40 Wizards (7755558) 3.50 Womans (s) (761542) 4.00 Sooty & Co (s) (7520423) 4.25 Tiny Toon Adventures (4792504) 4.50 How 2: Fred Dineen, Gareth Jones and Carol Vorderman discover how to make a human kaleidoscope (2474417)  
5.10 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (5899726) 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (352881) 6.00 London Tonight presented by Alistair Stewart and Fiona Foster (Teletext) (57097)  
7.00 The Krypton Factor: The final of the brain and brawn competition, introduced by Gordon Burns. (Teletext) (58523)

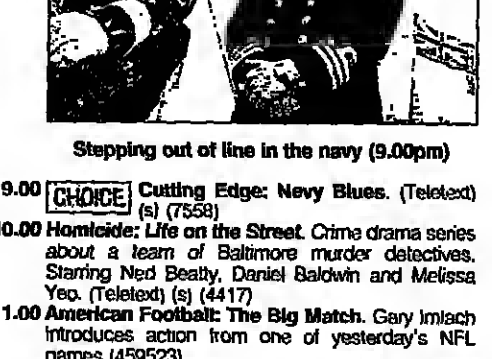


Anne Kirkbride as Deirdre Barlow (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Coronation Street: Deirdre begins to feel out of place in her own house. (Teletext) (523)  
8.00 Strike It Lucky: Lighthearted quiz game show hosted by the manik Manik Bannymore. (Teletext) (s) (7271)  
8.30 World in Action: Investigative series (s) (3078) 9.00 **CHOICE** A Woman's Guide to Adultery. (Teletext) (s) (778)  
10.00 News on Ten (Teletext) and weather (58213) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (200639) 10.40 The Evening Standard Drama Awards from the Savoy Hotel, introduced by Ned Sherrin (561184) 11.40 Aids in a Way of Life: Young actors with their responses to the threat of Aids and HIV (304829) 11.45 Magnitude: Tom Sellick stars as the playboy private detective. (58592)  
12.30am The Beat: Music and movie magazine (s) (64721)  
1.30 60 Minutes: American news magazine (3799092) 2.20 Nite Bits: The recipe for beer in beer (s) (787874) 2.30 Sports AM: Ice hockey: Sheffield Steelers v Cardiff Devils (48300)  
3.30 VideoFashion: The latest from German designers (112134)  
4.00 Hollywood Report: Showbusiness gossip (s) (s) (32008)  
4.30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (71450) 5.00 Riviera: French drama serial (42450) 5.30 ITN Morning News (58059). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Ulysses 31: Cartoon adventures (s) (51368)  
7.00 The Big Breakfast (60504)  
9.00 You Bet Your Life: American game show hosted by Bill Cosby (s) (s) (49892)  
9.30 School Geography: Start Here (5878149) 9.45 Talk, Write and Read (581097) 10.18 World Studies (5845146) 10.40 The English Programme (5823252) 11.07 Time for Maths (7468875) 11.18 Your World (7480455) 11.30 Rat-a-Tat-Tat (5885542) 1.45 Junior Technology (5808007) 12.00 Right To Reply presented by Sheena McDonald (s) (Teletext) (s) (69728)  
12.30 Sesame Street: Pre-school learning series. The guests are Kadeem Hardison, from the cast of *A Different World* (15184)  
1.30 Bobb'e: The series is narrated environmental adventures set in outer space (s) (73681)  
2.00 FILM: *Tread Softly, Stranger* (1957, b/w) starring Diana Dors, Terence Morgan and George Baker. B-movie thriller about a clerk who decides, with his brother, to rob the office of the steel company where he works in order to finance his love affair. The caper goes badly wrong and ends in murder. Directed by Gordon Perry (126384)  
3.40 Joe McElderry: *You Want To Play the Horses* (b/w). The hapless Joe cannot pick a winner (2289417)  
3.55 Plant Life: A repeat of Friday's programme about the role of plants. (Teletext) (3857813)  
4.30 Fifteen To One: Fast-moving general knowledge quiz game. (Teletext) (s) (438)  
5.00 The Late Late Show: Dublin's music and chat show hosted by Shane Byrne (s) (5438)  
6.00 Batman: Gotham City's first fight evil once again (829)  
6.30 The Wonder Years: American comedy series (s) (Teletext) (961)  
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (761252) 7.50 Philip: Philip's interview by a Labour party politician. (Teletext) (316900)  
8.00 Brookside: Soap set in suburban Merseyside. (Teletext) (s) (5813)  
8.30 Desmond's: More comedy from the Peckham, south London, barber's (Teletext) (s) (4320)



Stepping out of line in the navy (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **CHOICE** Cutting Edge: Navy Blues. (Teletext) (s) (758)  
10.00 Homeless: Life on the Street. Crime drama series about a team of Baltimore murder detectives. Starring Ned Beatty, Daniel Baldwin and Melissa Yebo. (Teletext) (s) (4417)  
11.00 American Football: The Big Match. Gary Instich introduces action from one of yesterday's NFL games (459523)  
12.00am Evening Shade: American comedy series. Tonight there is a special Christmas special when word arrives that the town's most notorious criminal is on the loose and making his way home in order to exact revenge on Awa who was responsible for his incarceration. Starring Peter Koch, Mani Hanner and Burt Reynolds (s) (s) (378007)  
12.50 Let the Blood Run Free: Black comedy series, in which a murderer, mould, set in a run-down Australian hospital (s) (Teletext) (s) (5220061). Ends at 1.15  
4.00-5.15 Schools: Tactetics. Paris one to five of a technology series (s) (3531092)

## RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Bruno Brookes: (FM only) 10.00am Moolah, Cooder 12.45 Jack Blackie 3.00am Steve Wright in the Afternoon 6.00 News 7.30-8.00 Evening Session: Stephen and Andy Ockwell (s) 8.00 Windings with Jo Brand and Donna McNeill 8.30 Gitter and Tawshed: Noddy Holder's retrospective of the 1970s 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lyn Parson (FM only)

## RADIO 2

- FM Stereo, 5.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Praise for Thought 7.00 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Praise for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30am Young 12.00am Gloria Hunniford 2.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the Memory 7.30 Alan Dale with Dance Band Dave and at 8.00 Ben and Ben 8.30 Ben and Ben 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton with the Best of Jazz 10.00 A Swing Affair: A Nat King Cole 10.10am The Best of Nat King Cole 10.30am The Best of Nat King Cole 10.50am The Best of Nat King Cole 11.00am The Best of Nat King Cole 11.30am The Best of Nat King Cole 11.50am The Best of Nat King Cole 12.00am The Best of Nat King Cole 12.30am The Best of Nat King Cole 12.50am The Best of Nat King Cole 1.00am The Best of Nat King Cole 1.30am The Best of Nat King Cole 1.50am The Best of Nat King Cole 2.00am The Best of Nat King Cole 2.30am The Best of Nat King Cole 2.50am The Best of Nat King Cole 3.00am The Best of Nat King Cole 3.30am The Best of Nat King Cole 3.50am The Best of Nat King Cole 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## 'If Libya is guilty I wouldn't touch it with a barge pole'



Rowland: pledge

BY MELVYN MARCKUS  
CITY EDITOR

LORRHO will stop doing business with the Gaddafi regime if its investigations into the Lockerbie bombing reveal evidence of Libyan involvement. Tiny Rowland pledged yesterday.

Lorrho's joint chief executive confirmed the company was funding a film about the Lockerbie bombing, but said that if it concluded Libya was involved he would conduct no further business with Tripoli.

Mr Rowland, on his 76th birthday, told *The Times*: "I have turned down hundreds of millions of pounds worth of business with the Libyans

since Lorrho's Metropole Hotels deal. We need to know if there was a Libyan involvement in the Lockerbie tragedy. If the Libyans played any part in this, naturally we would not wish to do any business with them. If they are guilty of causing the loss of 270 lives I wouldn't want to touch them with a barge pole."

His remarks come hard on the heels of news that Metropole Hotels, Lorrho's offshoot in which the Libyan Arab Finance Company (Lafco) holds a one-third stake, has set up a subsidiary, Hemar Enterprises, in the British Virgin Islands, to finance a documentary on the 1988 disaster when the Pan Am airliner exploded over Scotland.

Allan Francovich, renowned for his investigative work focusing on

the role of the US CIA, has been hired by Hemar Enterprises to direct and produce the documentary. Mr Rowland stressed: "Frankovich is absolutely independent. He is his own man. He told me, 'Any interference by you and I am out'."

In Rowland's words: "This film is not being made to show to the public... What we are seeking is information and clarification. I want to know whether there was a Libyan involvement... I have been in touch with Douglas Hurd. Any new information will be made available to the Foreign Office."

The UK and US governments are intent on bringing Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, two alleged Libyan intelligence agents, to trial to answer

charges in connection with the Lockerbie bombing. Tough new UN sanctions — including a freeze on Libyan assets held abroad — are scheduled to come into force on Wednesday in order to increase pressure on Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to hand the suspects over to the West.

The formation of Hemar, to back the film project, was agreed at a board meeting of Metropole Hotels last August. Mr Rowland, Ken Etheridge, head of Lorrho's security operations, and Smelda El Naili, of Lafco, are sole directors of the company which has budgeted £33,000 for the production of the film some £105,000 of which has already been deposited in Hemar's account with Credit Suisse in Zurich.

Mr Rowland's preoccupation with Libyan affairs is unlikely to be welcomed by Dieter Bock, joint chief executive, who is expected to make a point of raising the Francoovich film project at Lorrho's monthly board meeting next week.

Mr Bock, Lorrho's largest shareholder with an 18 per cent stake and an option over Mr Rowland's remaining 7.5 per cent interest, was travelling overseas yesterday and was unavailable for comment. Close associates, however, believe that Bock will oppose the project at the forthcoming board gathering which will include recently appointed non-executive directors Peter Harper, of Hanson, Stephen Walls, of Albert Fisher, and former ambassador to South Africa, Sir John Leahy.

## Directors at QMH face angry meeting

BY MELVYN MARCKUS  
CITY EDITOR

SHAREHOLDERS in Queens Moat Houses are expected to gather in force at today's AGM to vent their wrath over the role of the company's management.

Today's meeting at the Connaught Rooms, in Holborn, will be held against the background of weekend reports that non-executive chairman Stanley Metcalfe and chief executive Andrew Coppel have decided to call for yet another valuation of QMH's hotels.

Mr Metcalfe and Mr Coppel have been strongly criticised for accepting Jones Lang Wootton's £861 million valuation of QMH's assets in the 1992 accounts without seeking arbitration, in view of the fact that Weatherall Green & Smith, which valued the assets at £2 billion a year earlier, submitted a draft valuation of £1.8 billion for 1992 followed by a revised figure of £1.35 billion.

Mr Coppel is understood to be planning to retain Jones Lang as valuers: a decision unlikely to be well received by shareholders. Calls for an independent valuer are expected to be loudly voiced.

Shareholders are also expected to wax lyrical over the astonishingly generous emoluments that have been secured by Mr Metcalfe, former head of Ranks Hovis McDougall. Mr Coppel, a former finance director of Ratners, and finance director Andrew Le Poidevin.

Mr Metcalfe enjoys a salary of £180,000 for a three-day week, while Mr Coppel and Mr Le Poidevin, on respective salaries of £250,000 and £200,000, will each receive £100,000 bonuses following the financial restructuring and a further £100,000 when QMH's shares are revalued.

John Baisrow, founder and former chairman of QMH, who still holds some 8 million shares, has said that he will vote against adoption of the 1992 accounts in view of the valuation disparities.

Phillips & Drew Fund Management, QMH's largest shareholder, is understood to have pressed for the new valuation.

Accountants' view, page 42

## Directors tell Clarke not to increase taxes

BY JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

**The City welcomed weekend hints that the Chancellor will squeeze spending rather than raise taxation, but business leaders said tax rises put the recovery at risk**

BUSINESS leaders yesterday launched an eleven-hour appeal to Kenneth Clarke to avoid raising taxes in tomorrow's Budget, saying that tax increases put in place by his predecessor in themselves put the recovery at risk.

The Institute of Directors, which has always been vehemently opposed to higher taxes, reiterated its call to the Chancellor to cut public spending instead. Amid what appeared to be hints from the government late last week that it had agreed cuts in its public spending control totals over the next two years, Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, also gave a warning that the brunt of deficit reduction should be borne by public spending rather than tax rises.

Indications at the weekend were that lower than expected inflation had allowed the Chancellor to shave about £1 billion off the public spending control total for 1994-5, originally set at £253.6 billion, and

to cut between £2 billion and £3 billion from the 1995-6 total of £263.3 billion. There is also scope for cutting the government's contingency reserve from what some economists believe was an unnecessarily high £7 billion set in the March Budget.

A combination tomorrow of lower public spending control totals and therefore smaller than otherwise tax increases for the next year would go down well in both the equity and government bond markets. The City wants strong action to tackle the deficit, with further action on taxes and spending pre-announced for later years, but protection for the recovery in the near term.

The major concern remains that tax rises — whatever Mr Clarke announces on top of the £6.7 billion coming into effect in April — could have a devastating effect on consum-

er confidence that must be offset by further base rate cuts. Most economists expect a further half-point cut in December, when retail sales and retail prices figures are expected to remain subdued, or early in the new year.

Julian Callow, of Kleinwort Benson, said that the expected total of tax increases is "on a scale not seen since the fiscal retrenchment of the early 1980s. It will sap real personal disposable income markedly next year... This will be a major headwind, and on our forecasts helps to lead to a marked deceleration in GDP in the second half of next year." Barclays de Zoete Wedd argues that tax increases already announced present the biggest risk to consumer sentiment and that the government would be "taking significant risks with the recovery next year" unless it is prepared to

cut rates again. A fiscal tightening and monetary loosening is the combination wanted by the City for the medium-term health of the economy, too, because it would rebalance the economy. At present, the composition of demand is undesirable, with consumption too dominant, investment weak and the balance of payments in substantial deficit. "This situation cries out for a tighter fiscal and easier monetary policy," Midland Global Markets argues.

The Budget has to be convincing, with tax increases targeted on the consumer and resources redirected towards investment and exports. James Capel said: "A Budget which avoided tax increases directed at the consumer and tackled the public sector borrowing requirement by a series of 'whizzes' altering the treatment of pensions may be more acceptable politically but would be ducking the key issues."

Modest tax rises, page 1  
Norman Lamont, page 18  
Leading article, page 19  
Graham Searjeant, page 42



Natascha Geršhuny-Roth, 8, with engines Thomas, James and Percy. At Christmas, profits of Hanson benefit specially from products of Ertl, the die-cast toys and models offshoot that makes Thomas the Tank Engine and friends.  
Reporting This Week, page 41

## Lloyd's offer will favour hardest hit

BY SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LLOYD'S of London's out-of-court offer to loss-making names will favour the hardest hit and those with legal actions due to reach court first. *The Times* can reveal.

These preferential terms form the main plank of Lloyd's offer, details of which are due to be announced later this week. The total package is unlikely to exceed £900 million, which many may find

hard to swallow, set against total claimed losses of £3.5 billion. The size of the offers vary depending on three factors. Action group members will receive bigger offers than members who opted against litigation. The extra amount is still to be decided, but Lloyd's financial panel has recommended that litigating names get 50 per cent more.

The council has also agreed

to offer a bigger sum to names with legal cases due in court first. As a result, the 3,063 names on the Gooda Walker Action Group and the 1,700 of the Feltrim Names Association stand to benefit most. The third concession is that hardest hit names will be offered more, with the offer increasing in line with the number of a name's syndicates. Lloyd's has still to

decide on the issue of capping losses. One proposal said to be a frontrunner is that £50 million to £100 million will be put aside to contribute to deteriorating losses.

Insurance group Merritt Holdings is today due to announce plans to restore its financial health, expected to include the transfer of its flagship syndicate 418 to a rival, said to be Janson Green.

## Labour in call for statutory City control

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE Labour party has backed criticism within the business community in the wake of the Roger Levitt trial, calling for a "drastic overhaul" of the way the City is regulated.

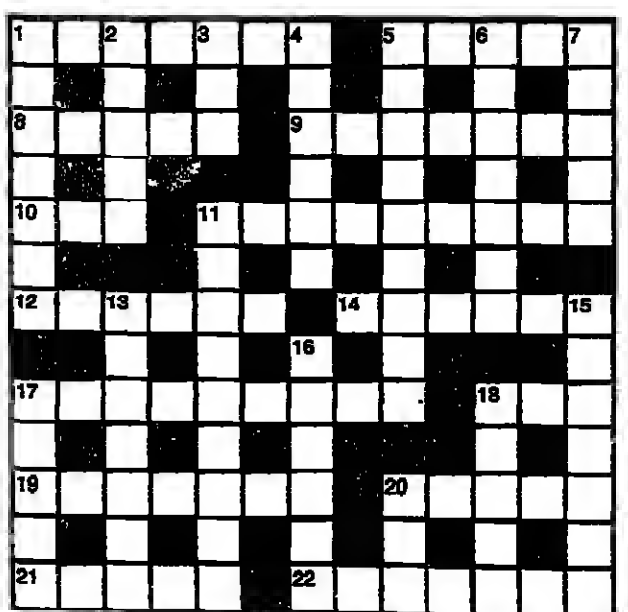
Levitt escaped a jail sentence and was instead sentenced to 180 hours' community service after he admitted misleading Fimira, the City watchdog, in an attempt to keep his business empire afloat. Levitt Group, his financial services company, collapsed in 1990 with debts of £34 million.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, called for a centralised enforcement body to police the City and the financial services industry. He also wants the proposed organisation to be a statutory body rather than the present system where the Securities and Investments Board oversees a number of self-regulatory organisations.

A statutory body would not only be able to put offenders out of business, as at present, but also to launch criminal prosecutions. He said: "At the moment, you stand precious little chance of being caught committing crime in the City. Even if you are caught, the chances of going to jail are remote. The law is no deterrent if the chances of conviction are so poor and the risk of punishment slight."

Labour is planning to raise the matter in the House of Commons during a debate on insider dealing to be held in the next two weeks.

Mr Darling said: "The decision to let Mr Levitt walk free is proof that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor."



## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 25

## ACROSS

- 1 Barrow (7)
- 5 Rudely assertive (5)
- 8 Sylvis and — (L Carroll) (5)
- 9 10/13-line, two-rhyme poem (7)
- 10 Choose (3)
- 11 German parliament (9)
- 12 Besmirch (6)
- 14 Barrel-maker (6)
- 17 Stuffing (9)
- 18 Condescending touch (3)
- 19 Unite (7)
- 20 Similar (5)
- 21 Present-bringer (5)
- 22 Britannia's weapon (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Mass-circulation paper (7)
- 2 Ascend (5)
- 3 Summer star-sign (3)
- 4 Malayan wrap (6)
- 5 Major Christian festival, May/June (9)
- 6 Carried away (5,2)
- 7 Immature (5)
- 11 Classical dancer (9)
- 13 Charge-hand (7)
- 15 Withdraw (7)
- 16 Choice (6)
- 17 Adjust for clear view (5)
- 18 Self-assurance (5)
- 20 Fourth Caliph (3)

## SOLUTION TO NO 24

- ACROSS: 1 Ingrate 5 Pappal 8 Sloop 9 Blessed 10 Alphabet soup 12 Clover 14 Uppers 17 Shostakovich 21 Orleans 22 Lucid 23 Brand 34 Tumbrel
- DOWN: 1 Instance 2 Group 3 Appease 4 Emblem 5 Pkbs 6 Posture 7 Leda 11 Asphodel 13 Ophelia 15 Problem 16 Barbel 18 Scald 19 Incur 20 Comb

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

## WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

## ABLIGURATION

- a. Retreat in an argument
- b. Torture by squeezing
- c. Extravagance in food and drink

## BRADYPEPSY

- a. A stimulating drink
- b. Slowness in digestion
- c. Of equal breadth and height

## VENDITATION

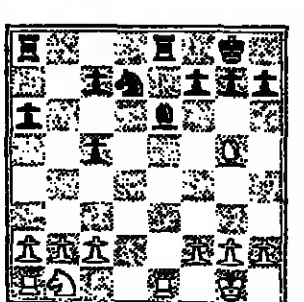
- a. A kind of speed-writing
- b. Displaying as though for sale
- c. Internal buttressing

## ZENANA

- a. A striped banana
- b. The day after tomorrow
- c. An Indian harem

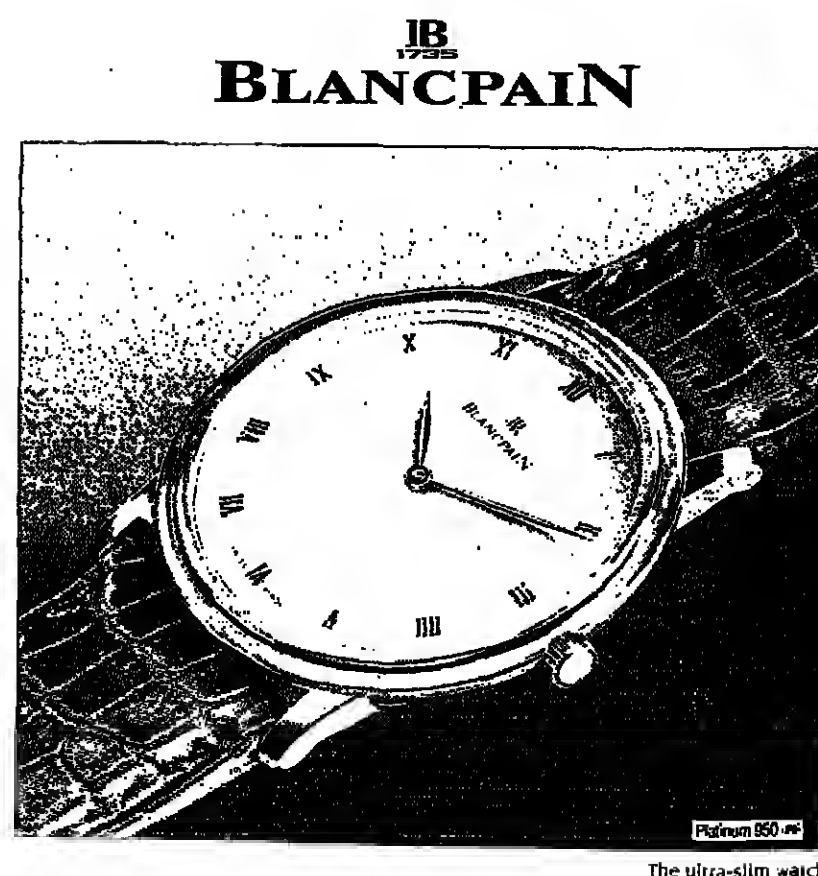
Answers on page 41

This position is a variation from the game Kasparov - Short. Times World Championship, game 19. Black has a slight lead in development and can use this to capture a pawn. How?



Solution, page 41

Raymond Keene, page 7



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